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Bottomley braced to make sweeping changes in London's health service

Four top hospitals face closure

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

FOUR London teaching hospitals cannot survive in the NHS market and must either close or change their function, the Tomlinson enquiry into the future of the capital's health services has decided.

The four - St Bartholomew's, St Thomas's, University College and Middlesex, and the Charing Cross and Westminster Medical School - cannot attract enough contracts from health authorities to treat their patients.

The enquiry, set up ten months ago by William Waldegrave, the

former health secretary, confirms the worst fears for the future of some of Britain's most famous hospitals.

St Bartholomew's has stood on its site in Smithfield for nine centuries. St Thomas's, where Florence Nightingale founded Britain's first nursing school, pre-dates the House of Commons across the Thames.

The four hospitals are the likely victims of the high costs of health care in the capital and an excess of beds. An average case in a London teaching hospital costs more than £1,000, almost twice as much as the national average. In the market system, without sufficient contracts the four do not have the income to sustain them.

In a striking change of tone, the

British Medical Association, which vigorously opposed the health reforms, said it would co-operate with the enquiry's recommendations and would not oppose closures.

"I am quite certain some consultants will fight but we won't join that fight," said Dr John Chawner, chairman of the consultants' committee. "The problems of over-provision in London have been apparent for some time. We have always argued that if institutions have to be closed, and in some cases they will be, it should be done in a planned way by the secretary of state and not as a result of the market." He noted that consultants estimated that up to 700 consultants' posts could go in the London shake-up.

The enquiry was established to deal with the paradox that Londoners get a worse health service than the rest of the country in spite of its higher cost.

Specialist services, which few need, are provided at the expense of routine services which many need but cannot get. The enquiry has decided that, to secure the future of the specialist services, some must be pruned so that the rest may flourish.

The enquiry report, to be delivered next month to Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, will emphasise that each of the four hospitals has departments and services that are worth preserving. It will set out options for saving the best departments and making the best use of the better sites. It will

also recommend mergers of some of the special hospitals, such as the Royal Marsden cancer hospital and Moorfields eye hospital, which are currently outside the NHS market but are due to become part of it in 1994.

The final decision on closures will be taken by Mrs Bottomley. The details will be worked out by a task force, already announced by the health secretary, set up to take the Tomlinson recommendations forward.

All four of the hospitals have already admitted that they are facing difficulties. The St Bartholomew's group of hospitals has forecast a deficit of £12.2 million this year and cuts are planned in every department.

College hospitals, which have London's smallest local population, are facing a deficit of £14 million. About 200 jobs are being cut. A similar number of jobs are to be lost at Charing Cross and Westminster hospitals, which are facing a £4 million deficit.

St Thomas's and Guy's hospitals are also facing deficits on their contracts and are in competition with King's College hospital nearby. The Tomlinson panel has concluded that only two out of three of them can survive. King's has the largest local population and is thought safe on that account. Guy's has been the government's flagship, leading the health service

Continued on page 16, col 6

Authority ceased, page 2

ANC agrees to summit meeting with de Klerk

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE African National Congress last night stepped back from the brink and agreed to a summit meeting between Nelson Mandela, its president, and President de Klerk. After a two-day meeting of their working committee the ANC said that such a meeting "could have some merit if it were to address the problem of violence".

Cyril Ramaphosa, the secretary-general of the ANC, said that the summit "would be a disaster for the country as a whole if it failed to produce concrete results". Therefore, he said, the summit must be preceded by thorough preparations. Although Mr Ramaphosa refused to spell out in detail what he wanted these "practical actions" to be, he made it clear that they should be significant steps towards the release of those political prisoners the movement claims are still behind bars, and towards implementing the recommendations of the Goldstone commission on the migrant worker hostels which have figured largely as a source of township violence.

The commission of enquiry led by Justice Richard Goldstone, investigating violence and intimidation, has proposed that the hostels should be fenced, that they be guarded by security forces and that they should be regularly searched.

The thorough preparations towards the summit will be agreed through a channel of contact which has remained open between the government and the ANC, a series of confidential meetings between Mr Ramaphosa and Roelf Meyer, the minister of constitutional development. "We are ready, willing and able to meet tomorrow or the day after tomorrow," Mr Ramaphosa said, to embark on these preparations.

The idea of a summit meeting to discuss the violence was mooted by Mr de Klerk on Wednesday after an all-day cabinet meeting which discussed the aftermath of the Bisho killings in which at least 28 people were killed when troops of the ANC march attempting to break into the so-called independent black homeland to call for the dismissal of the Ciskei

military government. Mr Ramaphosa said last night that there had been reports of a number of clandestine burials of bodies in paupers' graves by troops of Ciskei in the night following the killings, which might indicate that the death toll was significantly higher. "We have families who are missing next of kin who are not yet recorded as having died or being in hospital," he said, adding that the local ANC officials were urgently enquiring into the reports.

The removal of Brigadier Joshua "Oupa" Gqozo, the head of state of Ciskei, was "firmly on the agenda", Mr Ramaphosa insisted, but he did not make it a precondition of the summit.

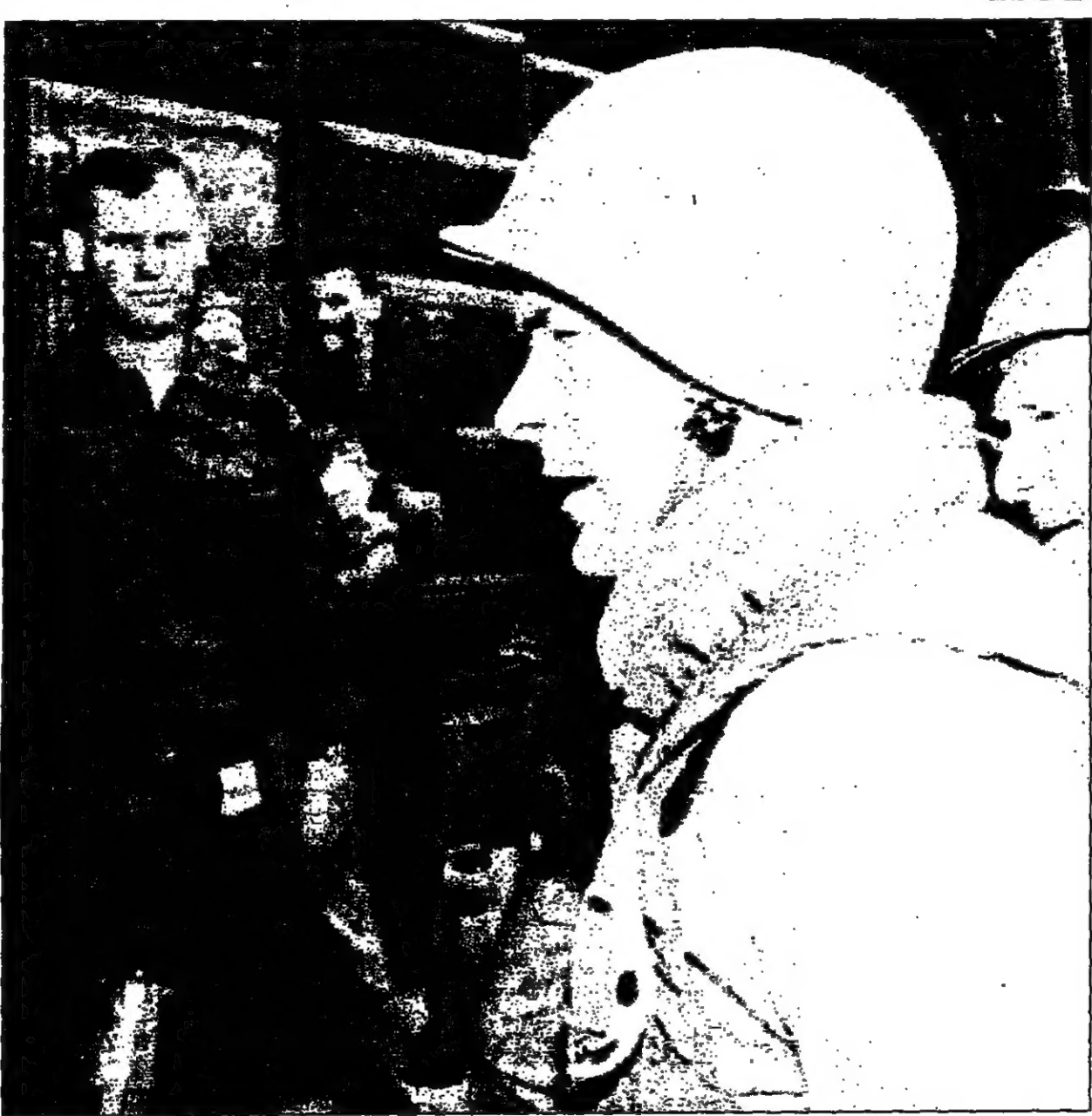
Mr Ramaphosa also welcomed the move by R.F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, to summon a special envoy from the United Nations, repeating that the arrival of the former US Secretary of State Cyrus Vance last month had been a victory for the people of the country.

The ANC also announced last night that they planned a series of actions both regionally and nationally to coincide with next week's funerals of the victims of the Ciskei killings. Though no details were given, the ANC statement said that the organisation "views with serious concern the lack of free political activity in many parts of our country". The statement specifically named Ciskei, Kwa-Zulu and Bophuthatswana as cases in point.

● Township strife: Violence erupted in the black township of Ratanda, southeast of Johannesburg yesterday, with police and the ANC reporting that homes had been set on fire in an early-morning raid. Police said one person had been killed in the attack, but the ANC said two township residents had died.

The ANC initially claimed that the attack had been conducted by supporters of the Inkatha Freedom Party, living in a nearby hostel for migrant workers. However, the ANC said it would not issue a definitive statement until a regional official had visited the township. (AFP)

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Peacemaker peer: Lord Owen, in helmet and flak jacket, on his way to a meeting in Sarajevo yesterday

Owen is shocked by Yugoslav carnage

BY TIM JUDAH
IN BELGRADE AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

A SHAKEN Lord Owen, getting a first-hand view of the damage in the former Yugoslavia, yesterday said: "It's worse than I expected. You see the whole wanton destruction, tower blocks shot to smithereens, and you realise so much of it has come from on top and not from street fighting."

Wearing blue flak jackets and United Nations helmets, Lord Owen and Cyrus Vance, co-chairmen of the joint European Community and UN peace conference on Yugoslavia, arrived in Sarajevo in a UN armoured personnel carrier. Sniper fire reverberated around the UN building and artillery boomed in the Bosnian capital's southwest suburbs near the airport. Lord Owen said that by travelling overland for five-and-a-half hours through Bosnia-Herzegovina's hills he gained some idea of the difficulties the UN faced in mounting land convoys to the city.

Asked what the UN could do to ease Bosnia's torment, Lord Owen replied: "The United Nations has limits on

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Major tells CBI to bite the bullet

BY ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

JOHN Major told British industry last night to "bite on the bullet" of a tough anti-inflation policy. The prime minister also ruled out calls from some business quarters for a devaluation of the pound, saying that would betray the future.

Britain would stay in the exchange rate mechanism of the European monetary system whatever happened. He told the Scottish CBI in Glasgow: "As we have seen in Scandinavia this week, it is a cold world outside the ERM."

In a further message to the markets, Downing Street yesterday said that, even if other currencies were devalued against the Deutschmark after France's Maastricht referendum, Britain would keep the pound at its DM2.95 level within the ERM. If that necessitated a rise in interest rates, they would rise.

on the economy, Mr Major repeated the insistence of Norman Lamont, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, that "there is going to be no devaluation, no realignment".

Setting out his personal credo on the economy, the prime minister went on: "All my adult life I have seen British governments driven off their virtuous pursuit of low inflation by market problems or political pressures. I was under no illusions when I took Britain into the ERM. I said at the time that membership was no soft option. The soft option, the devaluation option, would be a betrayal of our future and it is not the government's policy."

Dismissing critics as "quack doctors peddling their wares", he said: "Miracle cures simply don't work - never have, never will."

Mr Major has told close

colleagues that he is prepared to risk his career in pursuit of making Britain's a low-inflation economy, whatever the pain involved, and that he sees ERM membership as crucial to that aim. Last night he told the Scottish businessmen: "All too often in the past the solution was the same, to let the exchange rate go. And every time, sooner or later, the result was the same: rising import prices, rising wages, rising inflation and a long-term deterioration in Britain's competitiveness which offset any short-term gain."

The 14 per cent devaluation of the pound in 1967, he said, led to no more than a brief flurry of increased competitiveness while inflation doubled over the next year. Halving the pound's external value since the 1960s had failed to gain any competitive advantage for Britain.

The mark, he insisted, was

pre-eminent in exchange markets because it had an anti-inflation record and maintained its value. Those who wanted freedom from its influence could best get it from matching its anti-inflation record. "That is what we are determined to do."

Warning industry that he would not be heeding pleas for any short-cuts, Mr Major said the road to permanently low inflation would not be quick or easy, and there was some way to go. Britain's inflation rate was still above that of France and Germany, and more than half its exports went to countries with lower inflation than ours. "So we must bite the anti-inflation bullet or accept that we will be for ever second-rate in Europe," he said.

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Leading article, page 13
High street gloom, page 17

Doleful Maxwell goes looking for a job

BY JOE JOSEPH

THERE cannot be many people who arrive at Oxford's dole office in a silver Mercedes, looking for a job that might suit someone with heaps of experience as a director of an allegedly fraudulent multi-million pound company, and preferably carrying the sort of salary that could help pay off debts of £406.5 million.

Stand up Kevin Maxwell. Or, sit down and somebody will attend to you shortly. Opening another chapter in his riches-to-rags life, which is unfolding like a Martin Amis novel, Mr Maxwell turned up yesterday morning only to find that he had blundered again: he had located the disused DHSS office. Turning once more to the police, he asked a bobby for directions to the new Jobcentre, where he had a 15-minute interview with a counsellor.

He was quizzed about his income,

debts and eligibility for state benefits, but it is not clear whether he signed on.

The Jobcentre said: "We can't tell you anything. All our customers are entitled to confidentiality."

There was a wide choice of advertised jobs that might have tempted Mr Maxwell. What about: "Sales associate with financial services agency. Commission only. Duties will include helping people with finances, eg pensions, life insurance and mortgages. Training will be given." Or perhaps a financial consultant with an Abingdon company, salary of £3,000 plus commission: must have own phone, car and be of "good appearance".

After his brief chat, Mr Maxwell went to London on business. His wife, Pandora, said at her home in Hailey, Oxfordshire: "If he's been to the Jobcentre, I'm pleased to hear it. I expect it was to sign on."

"Of course he would like to find him-

self a job, but who would employ him? Would you employ him? No doubt we will get lots of crank calls from people offering him jobs washing up and so on, but I don't think he'll take them seriously and neither will the Jobcentre."

"He would very much like to work, but at the moment I think he's effectively unemployed. If he could find a job to fit in with his meetings and interviews with the police and various authorities, then I'm sure he would consider it seriously, but he really hasn't got the time right now."

"He's a very well qualified man and has a great deal of experience. I am sure he would be a valuable asset for someone if they would only give him a chance."

"He's very good at mowing the lawn and I've got some shelves I want him to put up. Maybe he should consider becoming a jobbing gardener and handyman," she said.



Maxwell: handy about the house and garden

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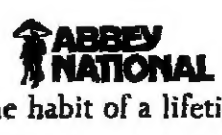


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Only 1 in 10 repossessed families listed as homeless

By Rachel Kelly, Property Correspondent

ONLY 10 per cent of families whose homes are repossessed are officially listed as being homeless, according to figures for England published yesterday by the environment department. Fewer than 3,500 families became homeless because of mortgage arrears in the second quarter of the year.

The single most important reason for homelessness was not repossessions, but parents no longer able or willing to accommodate their children's families. This accounted for 10,000 households becoming homeless, 29 per cent of the 34,840 families which were accepted as homeless by local authorities.

Sir George Young, the housing minister, said the figures were evidence that the government's December rescue package to help families facing repossessions was beginning to make an impact. "It would appear that the arrangement made between the government and the building societies agreed last December is beginning to work."

More than 35,700 homeowners were repossessed in the first six months of this year, according to the Council of Mortgage Lenders, and more than 305,000 borrowers were at least six months in arrears.

Ministers also pointed to the fact that the number of repossessions has fallen by nearly 1,000 in the first six months of

this year compared to the same period last year.

A spokeswoman from the pressure group Shelter said people whose homes had been repossessed were often not accepted as homeless because many were not families with needs that took priority.

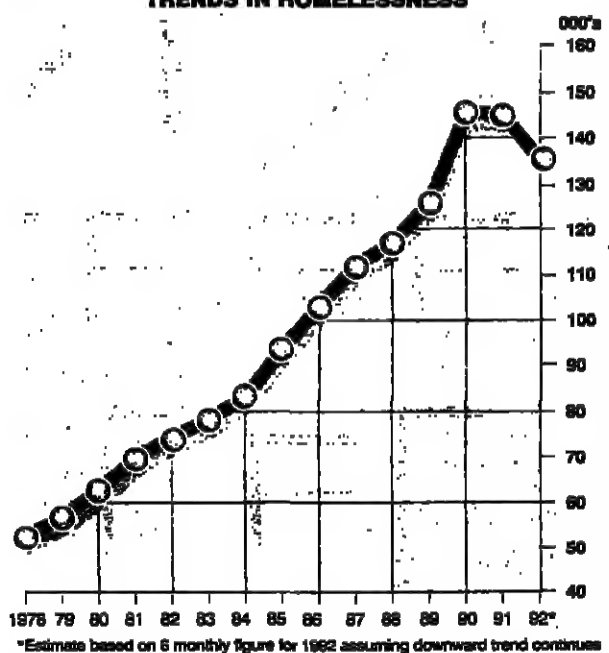
They were often recorded under a different category, she said. "Often such households break up, and this would be given as the reason for homelessness, not repossession."

"Often those who have been repossessed bed down where they can for a bit, and only later go to local authorities as a last resort."

Ministers welcomed a decrease in the numbers of people accepted as homeless. The numbers of homeless families has been going up since 1978, when 53,110 families were accepted, and has remained at about 145,800 for the last two years. But nearly 4,000 fewer families were accepted as homeless in England in the second quarter of this year than in the first quarter, a significant fall.

In the second three months of this year, 11,080 families were housed in bed and breakfast accommodation, compared to 13,300 last year. The 73,310 families accepted as homeless by local authorities in the first six months of the year represent a drop of 1,000 families compared with last year.

TRENDS IN HOMELESSNESS



Photographers barred as palace retaliates

By Alan Hamilton

IN A gesture of retaliation against photographers who take "snatch" pictures of the royal family in unguarded moments, Buckingham Palace has refused accreditation to eight cameramen to cover the Prince and Princess of Wales's official visit to Korea in November.

The seven freelance still photographers and one freelance television cameraman took unauthorised pictures of the princess swimming in the British ambassador's pool in Cairo last May. The princess was reportedly furious.

The Prince of Wales's office said yesterday that the refusal of accreditation, which means denial of facilities and access

to pre-arranged picture positions, covered only the individuals, not the organisations they represented. The television cameraman was working for ITN, and the still photographers for agencies.

Palace sensitivities have been sharpened by the recent photographs of the Duchess of York on holiday with John Bryan, her so-called financial adviser. Officials have taken action on this occasion because they know the photographers involved and because, they say, the Cairo pictures were taken by looking into private property. "It was tantamount to putting a camera over somebody's garden wall," the Palace said yesterday.



Keeping time: two players bridging the 40 years of the BBC Concert Orchestra, which will be celebrated in a concert broadcast live tonight on Radio 2. The violinist Cynthia Fleming was rehearsing yesterday, while the harpist Margaret Morgan is shown in the early 1950s.

Those queuing for the last night of the Proms tomorrow will be told through loudspeakers that tickets bought from touts will not be accepted.

Proms reviews, L&T section, page 2

Council top ten may not appear

By Douglas Broom, Local Government Correspondent

IDENTIFYING Britain's best council may remain impossible in spite of citizen's charter plans to publish league tables of municipal efficiency, the local government watchdog said yesterday.

Announcing plans to measure local authorities against 152 "performance indicators", the Audit Commission said that a single success rating for each council might never be achieved.

Each of the 152 performance measures is based on a simple question about council services, ranging from the speed with which town hall telephones are answered to the number of black policemen on the beat. At present there is no agreed basis for assessing the performance of councils, although at least half the figures which will be published under the new system are already collected by councils.

Labour council leaders said the indicators were likely to mislead and singled out the decision to use crime detection rates, whose reliability has been questioned, as evidence of the inadequacy of the proposed system.

Margaret Hodge, Labour vice-chairman of the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said national indicators could never allow the quality of local services to be measured effectively.

She said: "Too many of the indicators are crude measures of cost per head. You cannot expect accountants to be able to measure quality."

Peter Brokenshire, the acting controller of the commission, said the point of the exercise was not to set standards for councils to meet but to provide a common basis on which to assess their performance. The figures will be published in the autumn of 1994.

Health chiefs 'squandered' £2.5m on efficiency drive

By Craig Seton

THE West Midlands regional health authority was accused yesterday of wasting £2.5 million on a consultancy contract designed to find efficiency savings. It had involved £350,000 of consultants' expenses that over a year included leasing houses in London for American executives and their wives, hotels in Birmingham, the hire of aircraft to come to work and lavish entertaining, including dinners with expensive wine.

Within hours of the highly critical district auditor's report, Sir Roy Griffiths, the deputy chairman of the NHS policy board, was asked by Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, to help the authorities discharge its role "efficiently and effectively" for the future.

The regional health authority (RHA), which has a revenue budget of nearly £1.8

billion a year, admitted yesterday that the report had exposed failings and mistakes in awarding the contract to find £50 million efficiency savings in its supplies division but which had brought few lasting benefits to the health service.

The report by Keith Stanton, the district auditor, said the £2.5 million contract given in 1990 to the United Research Group (URG), a United States management consultancy, to make the supplies division commercially viable was improperly entered into and badly managed.

The RHA said yesterday that the contract was awarded by Chris Watney, its former director of its supplies division, who is accused of showing a "cavalier disregard for the standards of conduct expected from public officers".

According to the authority,

Mr Watney left his job in June 1991 in the wake of an internal review into the award of the contract. He is understood to be sailing around the world. Martin Davies, the director of finance, left the authority this week. Sir James Ackers, the RHA chairman, said they were trying to contact Mr Watney. The authority may also call in the police.

The auditor's report said the supplies division was responsible for negotiating contracts for goods and services to all district health authorities and was part of the regionally managed services branch, whose director was Mr Watney. He said that Mr Watney did not follow the policy of the health authority, whose arrangements to control the supplies division did not work.

The contract to engage consultants was negotiated entirely by the director with little reference to anybody else. He had not obtained competitive quotations and expenditure was incurred before agreement had been reached, according to the auditor's report.

It added: "Despite the rule that all contracts over £50,000 must be under the seal of the RHA, the contract for £2.5 million was just a letter from the consultants telling the director what they would do and charge." The report said the RHA board never saw the letter, although the details were explained at a dinner, after the work had started.

The report said the terms and conditions of the contract were imprecise and there was conflict over what the consultants were supposed to deliver. Mr Watney neglected one of the most important features necessary for the success of the consultancy exercise, the confidence of its customers. Re-ministrations between district health authorities and the regional body ended with some districts threatening to buy their supplies elsewhere.

The auditor said the authority accepted normal management controls had failed and had taken action when problems became evident. Stuart Fletcher, the managing director of the regional health authority, who took up his post in January, admitted yesterday that the region had not received benefits (from the contract) commensurate with the expenditure incurred.

Criminals have no excuse, says Blair

By Stewart Tandler, Crime Correspondent

CRIME can intrude on civil liberties just as much as other threats to individual rights, Tony Blair, Labour's shadow home secretary, told a London conference on crime prevention organised by the Community Development Foundation yesterday.

In his first speech since his appointment, Mr Blair said that unless communities once again became places where people could work and live without fear, the losers would be the whole country. Crime now meant that the elderly were not safe in their own homes and women were unable to walk city streets at night. That amounted to an intrusion into civil liberties and rights every bit as important as other risks to freedom.

There was no excuse for criminality and offenders had to be caught, he said. Equally, there were underlying reasons for crime such as the high level of youth unemployment, the number of young people with no means of support because of changes in the benefit system and the end of training schemes.

What was needed was a means of giving people hope

and opportunity as well as effective policing.

An expert on prison violence said yesterday that the privatisation of jails would result in loss of pay and status for prison officers.

Hans Toch, a professor at the State University of New York, told the conference of the Howard League penal reform group that officers' unions had not done all they could to promote prison reform and were therefore vulnerable to a private system set up to employ cheap labour.



Blair: policing not only way to cut crime rate

Missing boy found dead in quarry

The body of a schoolboy was discovered by police yesterday in a disused quarry. The friend with whom he disappeared on Saturday is still missing. Police confirmed that the dead boy was Allan McKay, 13, of Ayr, Strathclyde, who vanished with his friend Iain Allan, 12, after a game of football. The parents of both boys were present last night as police divers continued their search of the water-filled quarry at a golf club in Prestwick.

Police said that there were no immediate signs of foul play. Supt Jim Brown, in charge of the case, said that he still hoped to find Iain alive, but would be unrealistic if he did not fear the worst. The search, which continued through the night, involved mounted police, tracker dogs, divers, helicopters and coastguards. There had been several sightings of the pair in Prestwick since they disappeared after saying they were off to play. They had promised to return later that evening but no trace of either was found until early yesterday afternoon. Police received a positive identification of Iain on the seashore at Newton-on-Ayr earlier this week. That was followed by another unconfirmed sighting only yesterday morning.

Yard marksman shot

A Scotland Yard marksman was seriously injured last night in an exchange of fire when he challenged a gunman during armed surveillance in east London of suspected robbers. Two other suspects, one of them wounded, were arrested later. Police searched a public house for weapons. The Yard said that the shooting began near Grove Hall Park, close to the Blackwall Tunnel. Police later surrounded a minibus some miles away. Inside were the two suspects, one with a head injury thought to have been from the shooting. The wounded officer, who was being treated in the Royal London Hospital, is believed to be the first member of the Yard's specialist firearms unit SO19 to be seriously injured.

Ratners opals melted

The jewellery chain Ratners has been fined £1,000 and ordered to pay £350 costs after stud earrings described as opal were found to be plastic and melted when tested. Lynne Howson, a trading standards officer, bought a pair of the earrings for £3.50 in Hull in May 1991, magistrates in the town were told yesterday. Ratners, who pleaded guilty, said it was an administrative error from which no profit had been made. Mrs Howson bought the earrings just one month after Gerald Ratner's remarks to the Institute of Directors, when he described one of his lines in his chain of jewellery shops, a cut-glass sherry decanter set with glasses on a silver tray, as "total crap".

No ban in the USA

DAMNED in the USA. Channel 4's award-winning documentary about artistic censorship in the United States, may finally be screened in American cinemas after a Mississippi federal judge yesterday dismissed a Christian fundamentalist's plea for an injunction to ban it (Melinda Wittstock writes). It features the views on artistic freedom of the Rev Donald Wildmon, a tireless anti-pornography crusader and head of the American Families Association, a conservative pressure group. He sought punitive damages of \$6 million and an order restricting distribution of the film outside the UK, where it was shown during the Channel 4 Banned season last year.

Wogan returns to radio

Terry Wogan (right), whose BBC1 chat show was cancelled after four million viewers deserted him for ITV, is returning to Broadcasting House to present the Radio 2 breakfast show which made him famous. In January he will replace Brian Hayes on Good Morning UK. Mr Wogan also returns to BBC1 on October 2 with a new weekly programme, said not to be a chat show, Friday Nights With Wogan.



Sex gibes cost £1,000

A film studio stage manager who was called a "slapper" and a "tart" by her boss was awarded £1,000 by an industrial tribunal yesterday after it ruled she had suffered sexual discrimination. Lyn Beardsall, 31, a New Zealander of Winkfield, Berkshire, claimed that verbal abuse made her job at Bray Film studios in Windsor intolerable and caused her to leave. The tribunal at Reading, Berkshire, agreed that she had suffered taunts for 14 months but decided that her claims that she had been sexually harassed by Neville Hendricks, 34, on a trip to the Cannes television festival were unfounded. Mr Hendricks had denied trying to force himself on her.

Proetta trial date set

Carmen Proetta, the controversial witness in the 1988 Death on the Rock television documentary, and her husband Maxi appeared before Gibraltar's magistrates' court yesterday facing charges of possessing five doses of LSD. The trial date has been set for November 17 but Mrs Proetta said she would have preferred the hearing to go ahead yesterday "if there is any evidence". Earlier, her lawyer Chris Finch had said that he wanted a date fixed because Mrs Proetta lived on the island only at weekends and it was not convenient for her to come only when the case is on for mention.

Herbal teas linked with liver deaths

By Alison Roberts

SOME of the herbal teas sold as medicines or slimming aids can cause potentially fatal liver failure, doctors say.

Traditional Chinese remedies for eczema, sold in clinics or prepared by Chinese physicians, have been linked to the death of a woman aged 28 who suffered acute liver failure, the National Poisons Unit reports in a letter published in *The Lancet* today. An emergency transplant failed to save her.

A relapsing hepatic illness in a nine-year-old girl was caused by similar mixtures of medicinal plants. The unit has investigated nine further cases in which the teas have had harmful effects. Letters

from doctors in France also report fatal liver failure caused by a slimming tea containing wild germander. The preparation, called Tealine, contained 150mg of the toxic herb: three tablets taken daily for two to three weeks periods with a six-month break between were enough to cause the failure, the doctors say.

Virginia Murray, of the National Poisons Unit, based at Guy's Hospital, central London, said that there was no check on the contents of such preparations and nobody knew how many alternative medicines were available in Britain. "We are trying to find out the scale of the

problem in this country. We feel that there are enough cases to be worrying, and we want to raise doctors' awareness so that they ask patients who come with symptoms whether they are taking remedies," she said.

"Symptoms depend on the substance and the patient, but basically these herbs can affect any organ system. One of the messages is that natural does not necessarily equal safe."

Robin Graham-Brown, of Leicester Royal Infirmary, called for a halt to the use of Chinese herbal remedies until full pharmacological trials had been carried out. One of his patients suffered toxic

hepatitis after taking a herbal infusion sold to him by a Chinese remedy clinic in Birmingham. Dr Graham-Brown said: "We need to guard against people rushing headlong to these clinics and receiving treatments which we don't know anything about."

The poisons unit is in the middle of a two-year study of alternative medicines, including herbal remedies. The study, funded by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, is investigating preparations which do not make direct medical claims and can thus be classed as food supplements, escaping the control of the Medicines Act.

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Consultant accused of giving lethal injection to patient in agony

By BILL FROST

A HOSPITAL consultant administered a fatal injection to an elderly patient after she implored him to cut short her agony, Winchester Crown Court was told yesterday.

Nigel Cox, a rheumatologist at Royal Hampshire County Hospital, denies attempting to murder Lillian Boyes, 70, after he found she could not bear her pain. He was told yesterday.

Neil Butterfield, QC, for the prosecution, said the consultant's motive was "to bring an end" to his patient's suffering. Because Mrs Boyes was terminally ill and her body was cremated before the facts were fully known to the authorities, the Crown could not prove that her death was caused by the injection, he said. "It is for that reason the charge is one of attempted murder and not murder."

Mr Butterfield told the jury the case was both unusual and distressing — but they should try to set aside natural feelings of sympathy and prejudice and approach their task objectively.

The court heard that Dr Cox, described as an experienced and highly qualified consultant, treated Mrs Boyes for advanced rheumatoid arthritis when she was admitted to the hospital in August 1991. Within a few days she had become seriously ill, suffering great pain and discomfort which was not relieved by large doses of painkillers and analgesic drugs.

Mrs Boyes called her two sons to the hospital when the pain became unbearable. They sat and listened as she called out in agony, Mr Butterfield said Dr Cox had

told the woman's sons she had asked him to give her an injection to "finish her off". But obviously "the consultant could do nothing like that because he was not allowed to".

Dr Cox assured the old woman's sons he would make sure she was in no pain and would not suffer, said Mr Butterfield. After the conversation he had made a note saying: "She still wants out and I don't think we can reasonably disagree in the face of quality of life, both present and future."

Mr Butterfield said: "Dr Cox had a duty to ensure his terminally ill patient, who herself had declined further treatment other than pain relief, died with dignity and as little suffering as possible. But that was the extent of his duty. The deliberate killing of a helpless person, whatever the wishes of that person may be, is neither the right nor the duty of a doctor."

"It is right that dying patients should be relieved of suffering and this must be done to the best of the doctor's skill, but killing patients, even for the most worthy and understandable of motives, is no part of the work of doctors and nurses."

Mr Butterfield said that, having assured his patient and her sons that she would not suffer, Dr Cox found he could not honour his pledge. "He selected two ampoules of potassium chloride, which, if administered quickly and undiluted into the bloodstream, is a lethal substance."

Dr Cox gave her the fatal injection, he said. He then wrote in the hospital notes that he had given her the injection but on the death certificate he said her death was due to bronchial pneumonia.

The alleged offence came to light when a ward sister saw an entry in the log which detailed the exact amount administered. She reported the matter to a senior nursing manager and subsequently a police enquiry was launched.

Mr Butterfield said the prosecution could not say the injection killed Mrs Boyes. "It is possible that, by coincidence, she died of natural causes shortly after the administration of the injection. She was terminally ill and could have died at any time."

Staff nurse Christina Eeles told the court that Dr Cox had been distressed over the pain his patient was suffering. She said the atmosphere in the ward before the death of Mrs Boyes had been tense. The old woman had been screaming out in pain.

"It was very upsetting at the time. It made me feel sick," Ms Eeles said. Asked about Dr Cox's mood at the time, she said the consultant was "very distressed" by the amount of pain Mrs Boyes was suffering. The case continues today.

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Feast for a friend: the chef and restaurateur Anton Mosimann at the memorial lunch in the ICA yesterday

Mourners picnic in memorial to David

By TOM RHODES

ELIZABETH David, credited as the only woman capable of teaching the philistine English how to savour their culinary delights, left a posthumous and indelible stamp on British cookery yesterday when about a hundred of her family and followers held a "memorial picnic" in her honour.

The Nash Room at the ICA, central London, was bedecked with the trestles and bistro-style checked tablecloths for the meal that followed a memorial service at St Martin-in-the-Fields for David, who died in May, aged 79.

All but one of the dishes, prepared by Simon Hopkinson of Bibendum, Sally Clarke of Clarke's and Martin Lam of L'Escargot, were gleaned from David's books: bocconcini with basil leaves, marinated lentil and goat cheese salad, baby beetroot and chives, spiced aubergine salad, Piedmontese peppers, salade de mousseline and grilled tuna, red onion and beans, served with a Mâcon 1991 and a Château Gaillard 1991. Ramblings of autumn fruits with fromage frais and strong black coffee followed. David, like Balzac, was unable to write even a sentence without the aid of a thesaurus of coffee.

Aside from her sister Patricia, niece Sabrina and three nephews, William, Alexander and Edward, most of the guests were from the food business. Anton Mosimann, Hugh Johnson the wine writer and Gerald Asher the vintner were close friends, as were Arabella Boxer and the actor Leslie French, 90, who first met David 60 years ago.

It was left to Julia Child, the American cookery writer, to give a definitive judgment: "This is without question the greatest food event of the year. It is safe to say that Elizabeth would not have approved — she did not like crowds or public adulation — but I think she would have appreciated the fact that it took place at all."

MP condemns public subsidy of places at private schools

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MANY independent schools have become so reliant on the Assisted Places Scheme that they now depend on its public subsidy for their survival, a Labour MP said yesterday.

Stephen Byers, the MP for Wallasey and former chairman of the Council of Local Education Authorities, disclosed that four schools — Dulwich College and Latymer Upper School in London, Newcastle-under-Lyme School in Staffordshire, and St Edward's College, Liverpool — received more than £1 million each from the scheme last year. More than 50

schools received £500,000 each.

Mr Byers said: "To call these schools independent is a complete misnomer. In reality, they are totally dependent on the state."

At least one in three of the pupils in ten schools are on assisted places, according to figures derived from parliamentary answers. Wisbech Grammar School has the highest concentration, with almost half of the pupils benefiting from the scheme for low-income families.

Anthony Verity, the Master of Dulwich College, said that

the 277 assisted places could easily be filled with pupils paying full fees. "I dare say that there are some schools that are grateful for assisted places at the moment, but we are in the scheme because we believe in it."

A deputy headmistress was yesterday awarded nearly £7,000 compensation for unfair dismissal over the alleged slapping of two five-year-olds. Karen Humphreys, 51, who taught at St Andrew's Junior School, Stanley, Derbyshire, was dismissed last December after 14 years. Parents protested in vain for her reinstatement.

Britain launches £500,000 drive to lure US tourists

By HARVEY ELLIOTT, TRAVEL CORRESPONDENT

AMERICANS are to be bombarded with more than £500,000 worth of advertising from next month to convince them that Britain remains an affordable place to visit, despite a dollar exchange rate of two to the pound.

The campaign, to be aimed at "high-spending first time visitors", will include the free distribution of a booklet entitled "How to have an amazingly affordable holiday in Britain this year".

William Davis, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, said: "Nearly 60 per cent of overseas visitors come to London, but the capital is perceived as expensive, which in turn affects the perception of Britain as a whole. At a time when value for money is the key issue, we need to counter this widely held view."

The dollar was offered at 2.14 to the pound yesterday at the Inter-Continental Hotel in central London yesterday. James Jarvis, a lawyer from Florida, said: "As long as the dollar remains so weak it will seem dreadfully expensive over here."

In Trafalgar Square, Peter Valesco from California and Arthur Butler from Illinois were planning to go home early as their spending money dwindled. Both had won trips to London as a reward from their companies for their sales efforts but were discovering just how expensive even a "free" trip could be.

"We have just spent £52 for lunch in a place which was supposed to be cheap," said Mr Valesco. "That's \$108 and

I never spend more than \$8.75 on lunch at home."

The theatre-loving Butlers had been forced to find cheap tickets in the gallery rather than their usual stalls seats. "We love England but it is now so expensive," said Mr Butler. "We are going home early."

Mr Davis believes there are great bargains to be had in Britain. "The one good thing about a recession is that while it may be bad for the industry it is good for the consumer. American travellers are always very price conscious and the current exchange rate is a formidable handicap," said Mr Davis. "Britain's appeal is as a strong as ever but it is plain that Americans are looking for money saving tips that will help their dollars go further."

Before the dollar exchange rate soared so sharply 2.8

million Americans visited Britain in 1991, down 26 per cent on the previous year. Now, it is claimed, the number of visitors from the US has climbed by 32 per cent in the first six months.

Amid opposition from conservationists and protectors of the capital's sights, Westminster city councillors voted last night on whether commercial advertising should adorn the hoardings which for almost a year have shrouded the winged figure of Eros in Piccadilly.

English Heritage says the idea of advertising on the monument is "unseemly and demeaning". The Fountain Society argues for the boarding to be done away with altogether, saying: "Eros needs restoration, not incarceration."

Leading article, page 13

BRITISH TOURISM 1991	
Spending by overseas visitors in UK	£7.2bn
Domestic tourism (trips of 1+ nights)	£16.5bn
Number of overseas visitors to UK	16.8m
Purpose of overseas visit:	
Holiday	8.94m
Business/conference	4.13m
Visiting friends/relatives	3.50m
Other purposes	2.03m
Top five countries of origin	
Number of visits:	
France	2.29m
USA	2.25m
Germany	2.03m
Irish Republic	1.31m
The Netherlands	1.06m
Spending:	
USA	£1.25bn
Germany	£0.56bn
France	£0.48bn
Italy	£0.38bn
Irish Republic	£0.35bn

Source: British Tourist Authority

Poachers' salmon gifts spawn gratitude

By KERRY GILL

NEVER again will villagers at Helmsdale, on the east coast of Sutherland, be convinced by Highland landowners' claims that poachers are merely plunderers of Scotland's finest salmon pools.

Old people were stirred from their television sets by a slight noise as packages were dropped on their front steps or pinned to doors. Outside was salmon, neatly packaged and containing a card saying: "From your caring poachers. We take from the rich and give to the poor. We thought of you and we hope you enjoy your salmon."

At least a dozen deliveries

have been made so far to the homes of pensioners, including some to the village's sheltered housing complex which overlooks the river Helmsdale, one of the region's best angling spots.

Rhoda and John Arnott were in their living room when there was a ring at the door. "John went to the door and came back with this parcel, which had been fixed to the door by a drawing pin. The cut of salmon, at least 1½lb in weight, was beautifully wrapped up inside a plain white plastic bag," said Mrs Arnott.

One woman, worried about receiving stolen goods, telephoned the police

station to ask what she should do with the salmon. "First take a pan of cold water..." began the officer. The pensioners followed the instructions to the letter.

Gordon Ogilvie, head bailiff of the Helmsdale River Board, said it was unlikely to be the work of poachers. "I don't believe poachers are that benevolent," he said. "I think it was a piece of shenanigans on behalf of a certain political party."

Mr Ogilvie insisted that his staff kept tight control of the salmon stretches.

Chris McLean, of the Scottish National Party, said: "We know nothing about this but we would say to the

poachers, 'Good on you.' Yesterday police were turning a blind eye to the deliveries. One officer, asked how many salmon may have ended up on village doorsteps, said: "It is difficult to quantify. Shall we say that a lot of people were very quick in reaching their front doors. There is a poaching problem in the area, largely dealt with by water bailiffs, but we have to cover the whole of Sutherland and all the lochs, moorland rivers and so on. There is ample opportunity for poaching in such a big area."

Would the police be taking further action? "Och well, what can you do without the evidence?" he replied.

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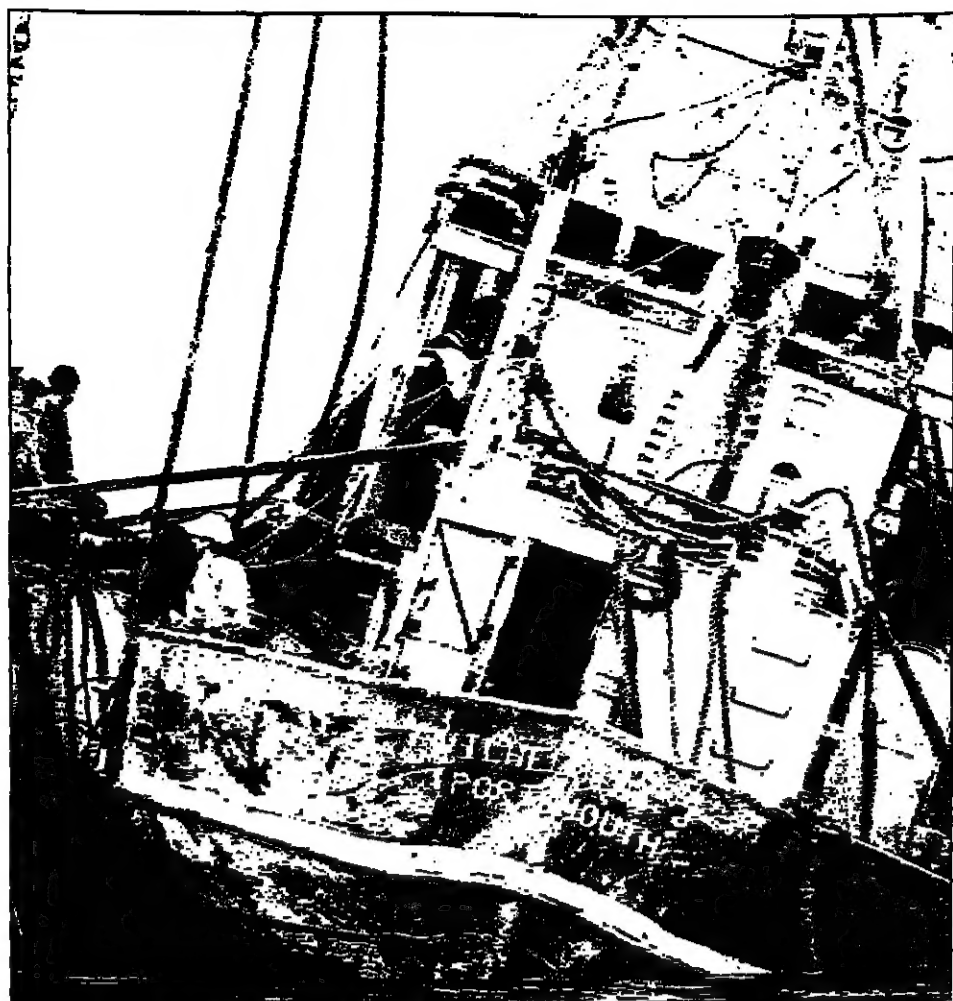
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Cambridge	0223 313463	Loughlin	081 502 4123	Reading	0734 583052
Colchester	0206 42007	Manchester	061 839 4339	Sheffield	0742 722801
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Marine investigators call for electronic device to identify vessels that fail to stop after accidents

Ships in fatal collisions broke rules



Stricken: the trawler Wilhelmina J, after the collision in fog that cost five lives

ELEVEN ways to improve safety in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes were outlined by official reports, published yesterday, on two collisions that claimed the lives of 11 British fishermen.

Enquiries by the marine accident investigation branch of the transport department into the sinkings last year of the trawlers *Ocean Hound* and *Wilhelmina J* found that they were struck by other vessels in the Channel after breaches of regulations.

The *Wilhelmina J* sank on April 10 with the loss of six lives after colliding in fog with the *Zulfikar*, a Cypriot registered cargo ship whose captain, Viswas Pawardhan, failed to report the collision for two hours. The *Ocean Hound* sank on August 11 with the loss of five lives after being struck by an unknown vessel.

The crew of that vessel displayed gross negligence in failing to notice the *Ocean Hound*, the report said. Although the skipper might have been unaware of the collision, the trawler's presence "ought to have been recognised well before the event if a proper look-out was being kept".

Michael Dynes reports on enquiries into two Channel incidents that cost the lives of 11 British fishermen

Responsibility for sinking the *Wilhelmina J* was placed largely on the skipper of the Cypriot cargo vessel for failing to ensure that his bridge was properly manned with a look-out while sailing through fog in busy coastal waters, failing to reduce his vessel's speed, and failing promptly to report the incident to the coastguard.

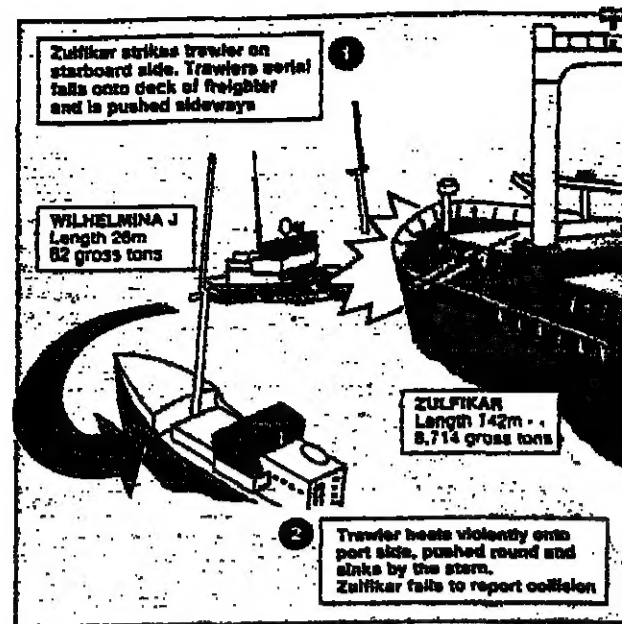
The enquiry found that the crew of the *Zulfikar* broke at least five regulations designed to prevent collisions: keeping a radar and visual look-out, proceeding at a safe speed, avoiding hasty assumptions about the movement of other vessels, navigating with caution near the end of traffic lanes and having engines ready for immediate manoeuvre.

One of the 11 recommendations calls on maritime authorities to introduce an electronic device, similar to that used in aircraft, which would be capable of identifying ships automatically. This

would have enabled the authorities to give evidence against the vessel that hit the *Ocean Hound*.

Transport department officials and representatives of the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the world shipping body, are examining the prospects of introducing a system that enables vessels to be identified from land. Any changes to maritime regulations would have to be approved by IMO members, likely to take some years. The marine accident investigation branch urges the British and French authorities to extend and make mandatory the voluntary system by which vessels entering busy Channel shipping lanes identify themselves by radio to the coastguard.

Other recommendations call for efforts to ensure that mariners keep a look-out; that mariners are warned of the particular hazards of the eastern Channel scallop fishing



grounds, next to the western section of the Dover Strait shipping lanes; and modification of emergency signalling devices to improve their performance and ease of operation.

Val Curless, from Brixham in Devon, whose husband Keith, 54, and son Mark, 26, were lost in the *Ocean Hound*,

said that the report had confirmed what many of the relatives had long believed, that "our men had been murdered". She said the recommendations should be made mandatory, especially the call for vessels crossing Channel traffic lanes to tell the coastguard of their movements.

Struggling museums appeal for lottery cash

BY SIMON TAIT
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

FALLING income may force some museums to close and others are contemplating selling parts of their collections, a report by the Museums and Galleries Commission said yesterday. It called on the government to formulate a national museums strategy and set up an endowment to protect collections of national importance.

Graham Greene, the commission's chairman, said that sites in trouble included Dulwich picture gallery in south London and the award-winning Beamish open air museum in co. Durham. "We want action from the government now, whether money comes from the national lottery or not," he said. The commission wants £250 million, half the proceeds of the lottery, to be put aside each year for museums. Of this, £100 million could be for non-national museums.

The report says: "The years ahead will undoubtedly see more mergers and rationalisations, and an increase in the number of closures." It also suggests that curators who do not present their museums properly should be sacked. "For far too long, too many museums have been kept in the doldrums by those responsible for running them. Early retirement has been used to solve such problems but is no substitute for proper training and increased opportunities for career progress," it says. □ *Museums Matter* (Museums and Galleries Commission, 16 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1: £7.50)

PC cleared of reckless driving in death chase

A TRAFFIC policeman who drove at speeds of up to 120mph during a chase that ended in the deaths of two men riding a stolen motor cycle was cleared of reckless driving yesterday.

After the verdict was announced it was disclosed that the case caused a dispute between the Director of Public Prosecutions and South Yorkshire police, who had refused to serve the reckless driving summons on PC Charles Wheeler because they said there was a lack of evidence. The summons was eventually served by the DPP's office.

The head of the force's traffic division, Supt Bob Lax, said after the hearing that the prosecution had been ill-conceived and the decision to bring it was atrocious. The DPP's staff has accused the police of lack of co-operation. The prosecution at York Crown Court claimed that although PC Wheeler, 41, of Sprotborough, South Yorkshire, was not responsible for the deaths, he could have endangered the public by driving at which he was driving, which averaged 114mph, in the early hours of a Saturday in May 1990.

The jury of seven men and five women took less than 15 minutes to acquit him after a three-day trial.

The court had been told that the driver of the stolen motor cycle, Richard Nilsson, 22, a lorry driver of Burringham, Scunthorpe, and his passenger Stephen Parrott, 25, a roofer of Winterton, Scunthorpe, were killed instantly when their Honda 600 failed to round a bend and smashed into a lamp-post.

Migrating animals 'see magnetic fields'

BY NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

MIGRATING birds, bees, and other animals that navigate using the earth's magnetic field may actually see the lines of force, possibly as stripes in the sky, which allow them to choose their flight paths.

Scientists have found evidence that light is critical in the ability of some animals to navigate. The research, published in the journal *Nature*, indicates that such creatures may have special pigments and cells in their visual systems that allow them to perceive the earth's magnetic fields as bright or shaded patterns.

The legendary navigating abilities of animals such as racing pigeons have been linked with deposits of magnetite, an iron based metal that can detect a magnetic field. This followed the discovery of aquatic bacteria that swim along the earth's magnetic field and contain particles of the metal.

The new research by John Phillips and Chris Bortland at Indiana University in Bloomington proposes a different mechanism, echoing a suggestion in 1977 by Michael Leask, a British physicist. Their

findings are based on studies using male, eastern red-spotted newts, *Notophthalmus viridescens*. When artificially magnetic field were generated, the newts swam in tanks to an artificial shore. When researchers altered the light wavelengths, the newts changed direction and swam parallel to the shore.

Dr Phillips said yesterday that they believed the light acted as a source of energy to sense the magnetic fields. Light hitting the newts excites molecules of a special pigment which are influenced by the earth's magnetic field to stimulate cells called photoreceptors.

Dr Phillips suggested that the magnetic, light-sensitive pigment could work even in low illuminations, which may explain why some birds can navigate on cloudy nights. It could also suffer interference around radar and other sources of electromagnetic radiation, he suggested.

The researchers plan experiments to establish where the special pigments and photoreceptors are in the visual system.

Magnet

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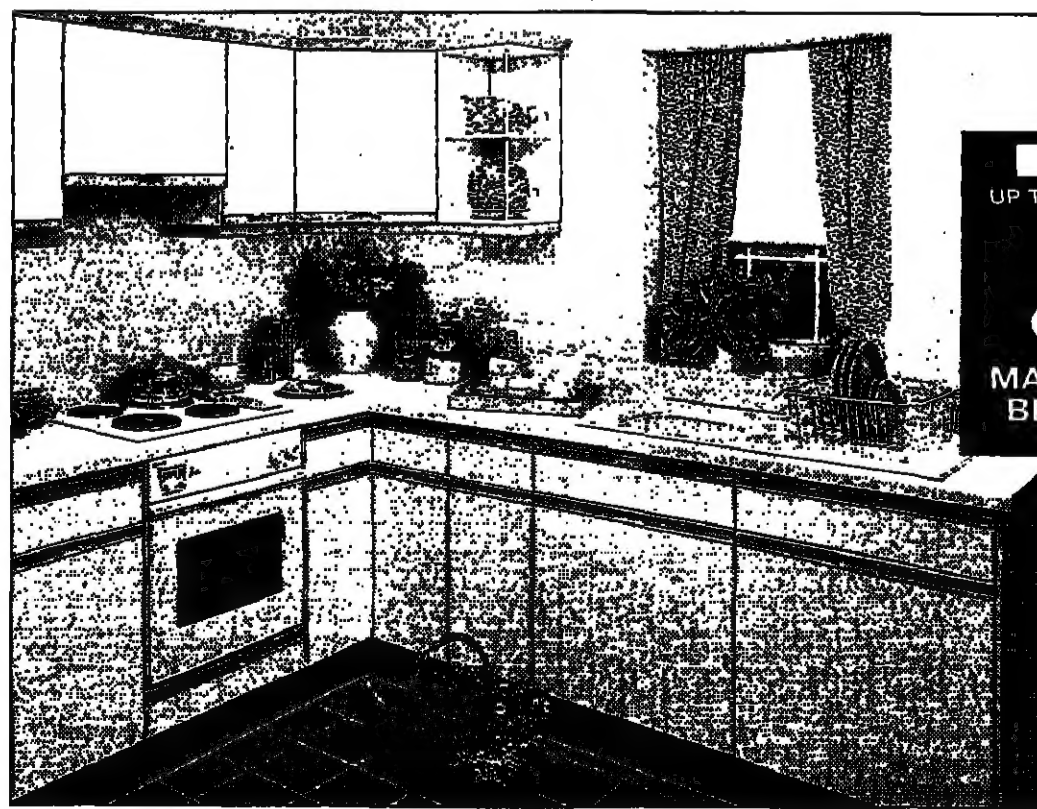
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Global sperm counts have almost halved in the past 50 years

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

SPERM counts have almost halved since 1940, according to researchers who have analysed all 61 semen surveys published worldwide in the past 50 years.

The average male sperm sample has decreased by 20 per cent and contains a lower proportion of sperm, but there is no known reason for the decline, which is reported after studying surveys from Europe, the Americas, the Far East and Australia. Environmental causes are suspected.

The research by Finnish scientists has not determined whether more men are infertile, only that all men have fewer sperm in each ejaculation. The longer a man abstains from sex, the greater the concentration of sperm in his semen. The method of counting sperm did not differ significantly among the studies and there is no reason to doubt its accuracy.

The researchers note that the decline in the quality of semen has occurred simultaneously with a rise in abnormalities of the male reproductive system. Testicular cancer has increased by between 200 and 400 per cent over the past 50 years. Boys born with undescended testes or an abnormality in the urine tube have also become more common.

Writing in the *British Medical Journal*, the researchers say that "such remarkable changes in semen quality and the occurrence of genito-urinary abnormalities over a relatively short period is more probably due to environmental rather than genetic factors".

Professor Niels Skakkebaek of the department of growth and reproduction at the University of Copenhagen, who led the researchers, said: "The causes are most likely to be

found at the time of pregnancy but we do not know."

Animal studies have shown that giving the hormone oestrogen to pregnant mothers could be harmful to the testes of their offspring, he said. Some elements in industrial waste emissions, such as PCBs, can have oestrogenic effects, leading some scientists to speculate on the role of worldwide pollution.

Professor Skakkebaek said there was unlikely to be a link with the contraceptive pill, which contains oestrogen and has been widely taken only in the past 20 years, because it was not taken in pregnancy.

The researchers speculate that there may be a common cause for the decline in the quality of semen and the rise in testicular cancer, which would be shown by their association in a particular geographical area. "Interestingly, Danish men, who have an incidence of testicular cancer five times higher than that of Finnish men, also have lower sperm counts (by almost a half)," the researchers say.

Other changes in the biology of the human reproductive system have also puzzled researchers. The birth rate for non-identical twins, the sort that come from separate eggs and share only a birthdate, has fallen by a third since the late 1950s in Britain and most of Europe, but not in America. Scientists have tried to find what could be having an effect in one part of the world but not in another. Environmental pollution has again been blamed. Poland has seen the steepest decline in its twinning rate and has also been one of the most polluted countries in Europe.

Women were urged yesterday to use condoms and to take the contraceptive pill to guard against the Aids virus

and unwanted pregnancy, even if they are in long-term sexual relationships. Condoms and the pill together would give women maximum protection against both pregnancy and infection, said Dr Ali Kubba, consultant community gynaecologist at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

He said that cases such as that of a haemophilic alleged to have passed HIV to at least four women, despite knowing he was a carrier, showed women were not immune to infection just because their relationship was "steady". Figures for cases of heterosexual HIV transmission, analysed in a letter to last month's *British Medical Journal*, showed 73 per cent of men were infected in short-term liaisons, while 83 per cent of the women were presumed to have been infected in relationships of six months or more.

Health, L&T section pages 4 and 5

Computer ages face of boy lost on holiday

By STEWART TENDLER, CRIME CORRESPONDENT

FOURTEEN months after a toddler vanished on a Greek island, South Yorkshire police have produced computer pictures showing how the boy would look now, aged almost three.

The picture, issued yesterday, will be printed on 5,000 posters to be placed in airports and around the Greek islands in the hope that Ben Needham might be identified.

Police harnessed a system known as E-Fit, electronic facial information technique, which is normally used to build pictures on a computer screen. The last available photograph of the boy's parents, Kerry and Simon, to build up their composite of what he would look like now.

The picture is thought to be the first time E-Fit has been used to age a photo-



Waiting and hoping: Kerry Needham with the new image of her son

graph. Kerry Needham, from Norfolk Park, Sheffield, said: "The picture is wonderful. It takes away his baby face, but you can still

see it is my Ben. I am sure it is close to what he must be like now."

The boy disappeared last year while playing outside his grandfather's home on Kos. Since then, sightings have been reported on several islands. Police think he may now be speaking Greek.

Women who dread driving at night

By DAVID YOUNG

MORE than half of women drivers are taking measures to protect themselves against being attacked in their cars.

One in five women hate driving at night for fear of breaking down and being open to attack, says a survey of 1,084 women, carried out for the insurance company General Accident in July by Gallup.

General Accident has now produced a self-help maintenance manual, *Woman At the Wheel*. The author, Ken Law, who has been a "roadside rescuer" for 20 years, said: "Women receive little education in basic car mechanics. Many breakdowns are the result of carelessness."

Woman At the Wheel will be at WH Smith and Menzies for £2.95 from next Thursday, or from Kelsey Publishing, Kelsey House, 77 High Street, Beckenham, Kent BR3 1AN. Women who accept a quote from General Accident GA 121 Motor Insurance (Freephone 0800 121 000) will receive a free copy.



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Our disappearing countryside

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Mechanisation and pesticides have destroyed a landscape that was as familiar to our parents as it was to our ancestors.

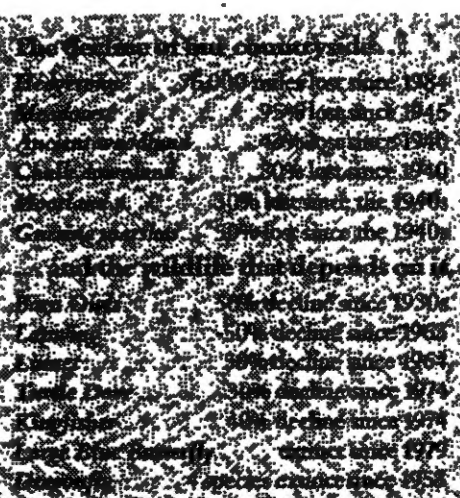
This alone is bad enough. But, as land has been cleared for more "profitable" use, the wildlife that depends upon it has been devastated.

Creatures that were once commonplace may never be seen again. Others, such as the barn owl, the natterjack toad, the skylark, the red squirrel, the turtle dove, the otter and the nightingale, are now under threat.

Would you choose to live in a country where creatures like these existed only in the pages of a nature book and where the sound of summer birdsong was silenced forever? Indeed, would you like your children to inherit a land that would be unrecognisable to your grandparents?

If your answer is no, then now is the time to act.

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*Source: Hansard S.11.91, OECD Estimate.

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RSPB campaign for the Countryside

NEWS IN BRIEF

Soccer fan leaves club £130,000

One of Britain's oldest football clubs are celebrating a victory over financial adversity after being left nearly £130,000 by a supporter.

Henry Spinks, an accountant, left almost half his £260,000 estate to the partners of Hallam Football Club, Sheffield, founded in 1860. The money should secure the club's future at a time when maintenance charges are increasing.

Tony Scanlon, the club president, said: "In football parlance we are over the moon. Henry was tremendously supportive of the club and this is a fantastic gesture."

Heir accused

Jasper Duncombe, 24, of Kensington, central London, the heir of Lord Feversham of Duncombe Park, North Yorkshire, was remanded in custody by Marylebone magistrates accused of trying to steal £12,000 worth of surveillance equipment from a shop at Paddington, west London, and with maliciously wounding a shopowner and carrying an imitation Luger pistol.

Shoot-out case

Three men from north and east London were remanded in custody by Dorking magistrates, Surrey, on a variety of charges including attempted murder, attempted robbery and possessing firearms, after an exchange of shots involving armed police at Brockham, Surrey, in August.

Degree fine

An organisation calling itself Somerset Independent University, of Ilminster, Somerset, was fined £2,000 by Taunton magistrates for misleading advertising because it did not say its degrees were not recognised in Britain.

Acid boy ill

A boy aged two who swallowed carbonic acid at a York surgery was still critically ill in hospital with severe internal injuries and acid burns to his chest. An enquiry has begun into how he found the acid.

Doughboy's gift

A former American GI will give out 5,000 biscuits to old people's homes at Nantwich, Cheshire, today because an elderly woman gave him her bun during the war when he did not have a ration book.

Spassky routs ragged Fischer

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

BORIS Spassky has won the fifth game of his chess match against Bobby Fischer in Sveti Stefan, Montenegro. His victory on Wednesday night, after 45 moves, gives him a 2-1 lead.

Spassky won with the black pieces, a feat he had never achieved against Fischer. There is speculation that Fischer is still reeling after his unexpected defeat in the fourth game.

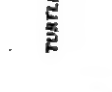
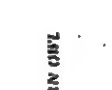
The opening duplicated that of game three until the eighteenth move, when Fischer introduced a refinement intended to improve his attacking chances. But on the 22nd move, he chose a passive rook move that forfeited most of his advantage.

Spassky struck back with tremendous flair. His 25th, 28th and 30th moves eradicated Fischer's central installations. By the 34th move, Spassky was left with a giant pawn on the seventh rank, poised on the brink of becoming a queen.

Over the final few moves, Fischer fought desperately but Spassky's pawn promoted, to leave him with an immense material advantage. By move 45, further resistance by Fischer was futile. The moves were:

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	24 Bg3	h5
2 Nf3	Nc6	25 Bc3	B
3 Bb5	a6	26 Bxg7	Qxg7
4 Bx4	Nb8	27 Nf4	f4
5 d4	Bc7	28 Nf4	g5
6 Re1	e5	29 Nf5	Qf6
7 Bc3	O-O	30 Qg4	Nd5
8 c3	d6	31 Ng5	h5
9 Bc3	Nd5	32 Qxg7	Nd4
10 d4	Nb7	33 Qxg7	Nb2
11 Nc2	Bc7	34 Rxd4	e2
12 Bc2	f6	35 Rf1	Nf4
13 Nf1	Bb8	36 Rg4	a7=Q
14 Ng3	g6	37 Qxg1	Qxg1+
15 Bg2	g5	38 Kf2	Qx7
16 Bc2	exd4	39 Qf3	Qx5+
17 cxd4	c5	40 g5	Rf6
18 d5	Nb5	41 Qg2	Qf6
19 Bg5	Nd7	42 f4	Rx7
20 Bc3	Rg7	43 Rg5	Rx7
21 Re1	Qf6	44 Rf5	Qx6
22 Rb1	b4	45 g4	Rd4
23 Ne2	Qx7		White resigns

The final position



Smith blocks leftwing move to force vote on referendum

By Philip Webster, Chief Political Correspondent

EUROPE

AN ATTEMPT by the Labour left to bring the party's divisions over Europe to a head next week by forcing a vote on continued membership of the exchange rate mechanism and a Maastricht referendum is expected to be blocked by the party leadership.

With support apparently growing in the Labour ranks for a change of stance on Maastricht and the pound, the left is to push for a debate on Europe when Labour's ruling national executive meets on Monday to discuss a new

policy document to go before this month's conference. Senior members of the shadow cabinet who have voiced misgivings over John Smith's cautious support for Maastricht and his anti-devaluation economic policy face the embarrassment of having to decide whether to vote against him on issues on which there is a long-standing shadow cabinet position. Dennis Skinner, a promi-

nent leftwing member of the national executive, is tabling resolutions for a special NEC meeting next Monday calling on Labour to campaign for a referendum and withdrawal from the ERM. It emerged last night that the leadership intends on Monday to delay discussion on Maastricht and the European exchange rate mechanism, and what would effectively have been the first

serious challenge to Mr Smith since he became leader, until the NEC meeting on September 23, three days after the French referendum.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, had made plain that Labour is against devaluation, and will not press for a realignment, although it believes that if the Germans took the lead and revalued the mark upwards Britain should look seriously at the proposal. John Evans, the party chairman, is expected to rule on Monday that the NEC should not discuss the two related issues until the following week.

Although the shadow cabinet dissidents can technically argue that they are not breaching collective responsibility, because it has not formally discussed Europe since the Danish referendum, the leadership's adherence to the ERM, opposition to devaluation, and dislike of a referendum is well established.

Mr Smith is already being urged by some senior figures to crush the emerging revolt. But there appears to be increasing support among Labour MPs for the leadership to take a more aggressive stance.

Alan Williams, MP for Swansea West, yesterday added to the pressure on Mr Smith with an open letter calling for a Maastricht referendum. Tonight John Morris, the shadow attorney general and one of the few remaining former cabinet ministers on the Labour benches, is expected to support the argument advanced by some shadow ministers that the Maastricht treaty is dead.

Fowler defends Maastricht treaty

By Jill Sherman, Political Correspondent

SIR Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, yesterday took on both Eurosceptics and Euro-fanatics by insisting that the Maastricht treaty would prevent over-centralisation in Europe.

He also exploited the apparent split within the Labour party on the issue, claiming it showed the party's "slipperiness" on Europe. Addressing a meeting of the centre-right European People's Party in London, Sir Norman warned against ignoring the wishes of the people by giving Brussels too much bureaucratic control. "We have to make sure we take the people with us," he said. "We will not do so if we over-centralise; we will not do so if in seeking to enhance the community of nations, we devalue the nations."

There was no need to centralise decision-making

when decisions could reasonably be taken at the national or local level, he said.

"It is ironic that opposition to the over-centralising tendency of the European Community had come to be focused on the Maastricht treaty," he said. "For one of the first time, provides a series of safeguards to prevent precisely an over-centralised Community that many people across Europe would reject."

It provided new ways of redress for European citizens through the European ombudsman and new powers of control for the European parliament over the European Commission.

The lesson of the past few months, following the referendum in Denmark, had shown that Europe could not

progress unless its citizens were fully involved in every stage. "The Danish referendum has sounded a warning note: it has not signalled a defeat for all our aspirations." Although the 12 EC members were now awaiting the outcome of the French referendum, governments should not be blind to the fact that the public in Europe "and certainly in Britain" were in favour of the European Community. "But they want a Europe which accords with their interests and does not trample over their traditions and national identities."

He said the change in the Labour leadership had only intensified the party's "shambolic and confused attitudes". He accused John Smith, the Labour leader, of failing to exercise discipline over his senior frontbenchers.

The TUC at Blackpool



Brenda Dean: at the centre of original dispute

Renegade union welcomed back

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

DELEGATES at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool yesterday authorised the general council to re-admit the EETPU, ending a bitter rift which once called into question the future of the TUC.

The decision to re-admit the renegade union was taken speedily, and with a remarkable degree of unanimity. Only the National Union of Mineworkers voted against.

Norman Willis, the TUC general secretary, acknowledged the depth of feeling among delegates about past behaviour of the EETPU. "Many thought this would be an issue too far for this congress," he said.

Bill Jordan, president of the AEEU, said leaders of the AEEU and EETPU had

made "an honourable commitment" to resolve difficulties with other unions.

The expulsion of the EETPU stemmed in part from the co-operation of the electricians when, in 1986, News International, publisher of *The Times*, moved its printing operations to Wapping, in East London, and sacked some 5,000 printers. The TUC suspended the EETPU from membership after it refused to accept the findings of disciplinary hearings into allegations that it had "poached" members from other unions.

Although the National Union of Journalists had called for the EETPU to hand back members poached from rival unions, the request was largely symbolic. Many have already left the industry.

Brenda Dean, the leader of the biggest print union at the time of the Wapping dispute, gave up her job as deputy general secretary of the catch-all GPMU media union with a £150,000 payoff earlier this year. She has severed many of her links with the trade union movement and is now believed to be looking for a job in television.

Workers suffer assaults

By Ross Tieman

EMPLOYERS must make more effort to protect staff from violent attacks, and provide proper counselling for victims of violence at work, delegates at the Trades Union Congress in Blackpool said.

Attacks were now so commonplace in the health service that nurses regarded them as a risk of the job, while bank staff, postal workers and even firemen were victims of often horrific assaults, congress heard.

Janet Atkinson, a community nurse, said a survey by the health union Cofes had found that more than one health worker in ten had been attacked at work, and more than one in five had been threatened. Cofes was now dealing with more than 1,000 cases of assault a year, she said.

Fred Jepson, of the postal union NCU, said: "We have had cases where members' families have been held hostage with shotguns to their heads." Peter Simpson, of the banking and finance union BIFU, told of bank staff being physically harmed or suffering long-term psychological problems as the result of bank raids.

Leaders of postal and bank workers said efforts by employers to make their services more user-friendly, by removing security screens and asking staff to wear name badges, were increasing the dangers. Mr Simpson called on employers to adopt a package of measures to improve staff protection and to help attack victims cope with the trauma. All bank staff should be trained in how best to respond to bank raids, with priority given to protection of life rather than money.

Guidelines being drawn up by the Health and Safety Executive should be widely implemented. Long-term counselling should be made available to help the victims of violence and their families to cope with the trauma. The TUC has thrown its weight behind government efforts to secure the location of a European Agency for Occupational Health and Safety in Edinburgh. Delegates yesterday ordered the TUC to use its best endeavours in Brussels to ensure the government campaign, was a success.

The TUC is already lobbying for the proposed European Central Bank to be located in London.

Delegates win pledge on railways

By Nicholas Wood, Political Correspondent

A FUTURE Labour government would cancel franchises awarded to private firms to run rail services, John Prescott, the shadow transport secretary, said yesterday. Mr Prescott was responding to a TUC call for an end to the government's railway sell-off. Amid claims from leaders of rail unions that unprofitable services are being axed to make the

network more attractive to private investors, delegates overwhelmingly backed a resolution seeking a Labour pledge to reverse the tide.

Mr Prescott said: "It will certainly be one of the measures that we will consider in returning British Rail to a safe, good-quality service. Some of these franchises may be five-year agreements. It is not acceptable to us that a

private operator with clapped-out old trains should remain on some of our fast routes."

Jimmy Knapp, general secretary of RMT, the rail and maritime union, led TUC condemnation of privatisation. Mr Knapp said the "mad axemen" of the cabinet were proposing to destroy much of the rail network with their ill-considered plans.

Absentee dominates conference

By Nicholas Watt

SARA Parkin may have been safely ensconced in a television studio, but her name was on every delegate's lips at yesterday's opening of the Green party conference in Wolverhampton. Activists are still reeling from her resignation as party leader last month. An earnest discussion, under the theme of Reconciliation, tried to thrash out the party's troubles. Graham Redshaw, from Staffordshire,

GREENS

thought they were simple: "We are hopelessly ignorant of group dynamics," he said. "When mammals come together a leader naturally emerges because of the need to survive. The party has failed to realise that there will always be leaders and followers. We have got to have a figurehead."

Mallen Baker, who is standing as one of the party's principal speakers, said: "I can only think that [Sara Parkin] wants to create another party. I assume this is why she and Jonathan Porritt are rubbishing the party in public."

BRIEFS

Ashdown rejects alliance

Paddy Ashdown says he will continue to reject any move towards another Lib/Lab pact to oust the Conservatives (Sheila Gunn writes).

As he prepared for a tough reception from some delegates at the party's annual conference, the Liberal Democrat leader yesterday dismissed fears that he was seeking any formal alliance with other parties.

Launching *Challenge, Opportunity and Responsibility*, Mr Ashdown told a Westminster press conference that the party's key policy document helped to fill the policy vacuum left by the other parties by charting the way to a post-Thatcher, post-socialist Britain.

The document qualifies the party's pro-federal Europe stance by arguing for changes to the EC institutions to enhance the power of the individual. The document also calls for a rethink on taxation policy so that voters have a clearer idea about the purpose of any tax changes proposed. *Challenge, Opportunity and Responsibility* (Liberal Democrat Publications Ltd, 8 Fordington Green, Dorchester, Dorset, DT1 1GB, £2.95).

Major backs Mellor

Downing Street said that David Mellor, the national heritage secretary, retains the prime minister's full support and that the question of Mr Mellor's resignation did not arise. The statement followed a story in the *Daily Mail* that he had been lent a flat and a car by his friend Elliott Bernerd, a property developer. Tory whips report no demand from their MPs for Mr Mellor to go, and Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative party chairman, met Mr Mellor yesterday and told him that there was no pressure from the party rank and file for him to quit.

The minister himself is bitterly angry at any suggestion of impropriety in his dealings with Mr Bernerd. He has told Mr Major that if there were any hint of corruption involved he would leave the government immediately.

Paisley 'will be back'

Sources in Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist Party made clear that its temporary withdrawal from the talks on Northern Ireland is not intended to threaten the future of the process.

Dr Paisley and Peter Robinson, the deputy leader of the DUP, staged a walk-out from a talks sub-committee on Wednesday in protest at what they see as the downgrading of discussion of articles 2 and 3 of the Irish constitution which lay claim to Northern Ireland. The articles are listed last for discussion, behind economic, security and trade matters.

Yesterday Dr Paisley told journalists that it was pointless attempting to discuss aspects of so-called North South relations without first dealing with the fundamental constitutional issue. Party officials emphasised that the DUP remained firmly committed to the talks.

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Delayed deployment poses grave dangers for troops

Michael Evans, defence correspondent, assesses the need for a rapid deployment force for European troublespots as British troops prepare to go to Bosnia

BRITISH troops are being sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina at the worst possible time. The government has always been reluctant to send troops to the area, knowing the dangers they would face. Yet now, after a change of mind, a battalion group of 1,800 men is being prepared for what could become one of the most vulnerable United Nations peacekeeping missions since the Congo in the 1960s.

The cabinet discussed the deployment of troops to Bosnia at a meeting yesterday. Malcolm Rifkind, the defence secretary, told his colleagues the go-ahead from the UN was expected in a few days.

France, Italy and Canada are also ready to send at least 1,000 troops each. Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands, Norway and Denmark have volunteered smaller units for a contingency plan that envisages five battalions of varying sizes based at five zones near the cities of Banja Luka, Tuzla, Bihac, Mostar and Vitez.

The proposal to send a larger force to Bosnia highlights the way the Yugoslav issue has been handled — piecemeal, ad hoc and usually too late. Ever since the civil war began, initially in Croatia, the UN, Europe and others have been slow to react.

Trying to catch up with events, rather than pre-empting them, is a dangerous game. Already the environment has changed since last month when John Major announced that 1,800 troops would be made available to the UN to escort humanitarian relief convoys. The deployment depended on a commitment by all sides to let the convoys through unscathed. Now there is no such commitment.

Future conflicts or potential conflicts will have to be confronted in a more co-ordinated way and on a sounder basis. The proposal earlier this year by Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, to form a UN rapid deployment force which could intervene before a civil war breaks out may be the answer. One of the dilemmas facing Nato and other burgeoning post-Cold war security organisations, such as the Western European Union

(WEU) and the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), has been to keep pace with political developments, in particular the resurgence of nationalism.

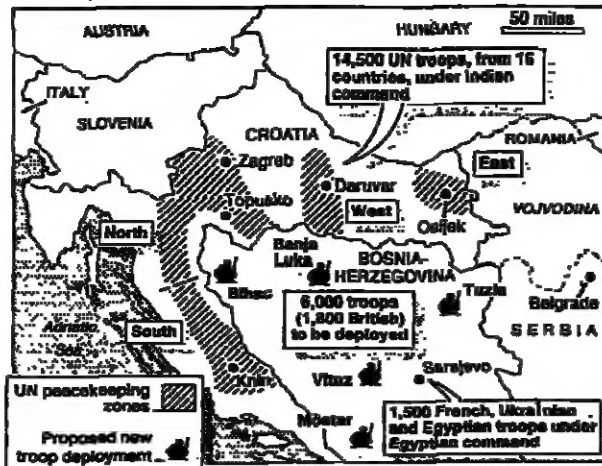
When the Warsaw Pact and the Soviet Union collapsed, President Bush declared that the new enemy was unpredictability. Western governments proceeded to plan drastic cuts in their armed forces and defence budgets and Nato agreed to replace the static forces in Central Europe with multinational, rapid reaction units which, theoretically, could be called upon to intervene in conflicts which threatened the stability and security of its member states.

The strategy was a sound one. Yet no one was brave or foolish enough to predict under what circumstances the restructured alliance forces would act, nor how flexible were the geographical parameters. Certainly no planner envisaged then that Nato's all-purpose divisions could ever play a role in Yugoslavia.

These mobile, rapidly deployable forces will be operational in Central Europe by 1995. Are they to simply act as a permanent, albeit smaller, force for stability and as a balance to Russia's conventional and nuclear might, or should they be given a wider role? If Nato cannot learn from the experience of Yugoslavia, the concept of maintaining peace and stability in Europe will be undermined.

In the light of the separate decisions earlier this year by Nato and the nine-nation WEU to add peacekeeping to its list of responsibilities, the alliance now has the opportunity to demonstrate its enthusiasm for this new role by designating part of the restructured forces in Central Europe for UN missions. The troops should be trained for peacekeeping and placed on a sufficiently high alert status to be deployed to troublespots in Europe at short notice at the request of the UN.

They could provide the hard core of a peacekeeping force sent in as first line troops which could be increased in size, or replaced, by troops from other countries once they



have been trained for the particular mission. French involvement would be crucial because of their experience and overall military capability. Ways would have to be found, therefore, to avoid attaching a Nato label to the peacekeeping force. They could be called simply the UN's rapid deployment force (Europe).

At present there is too much duplication. Instead of Nato, the WEU, the CSCE and the European Community jostling for new responsibilities or, in the case of Yugoslavia,

attempting to avoid them, the prime duty for "crisis prevention" and peacekeeping should be left to the UN but only if it is properly financed.

As Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, said recently, a commitment to peacekeeping on any scale will have implications for all alliance members. But if Nato governments can agree to place peacekeeping in Europe as the top priority, the new rapid reaction forces in Central Europe, which have been budgeted for, will provide value for money.



Armed response: a young militiaman, automatic rifle at the ready at a Sarajevo checkpoint, gives the three-finger salute that means "I am a Serb"

'Genocide' attacked by Ozal

By Our Foreign Staff

PRESIDENT Ozal of Turkey accused Serbia and the Armenians yesterday of "atrocities and genocide" against civilians in Bosnia-Herzegovina and Nagorno-Karabakh, the Armenian-dominated enclave inside Azerbaijan. He was speaking at an economic meeting of the Islamic Conference Organisation.

Mr Ozal said the failure of the international community to intervene effectively in Bosnia "further aggravates the situation and a solution becomes more difficult with each passing day". Bosnia will also be debated by foreign ministers of members of the Council of Europe in Istanbul today. Turkey, which has pressed for limited military intervention in Bosnia, is plainly frustrated at Europe's inability to deal with a war in which most of the casualties are Muslim civilians.

Yesterday, Michalis Papaconstantinou, the Greek foreign minister, said Turkey and Greece were to set up a hotline. Hikmet Cetin, his Turkish counterpart, said they had agreed to solve bilateral issues "through dialogue".

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Soapy sighs bring Bolshoi to a halt

FROM ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW

Those intending to take an evening stroll around the dark and not always welcoming corners of Bishkek, the Kirghizian capital, should choose their time with care. The local police chief has just recommended the three-weekly 45 minutes after the news when, he says, "burglaries and general hooliganism decline and activity on the streets dies out".

The sudden peace is a result of the nightly screening of *Bogatyre Toche Plachut* (The Rich Also Cry), a 13-year-old Mexican soap opera that began showing on Russian tele-

vision earlier this year and has developed into an obsession uniting even the most fractious former Soviet republics in viewer enthusiasm.

But the policing properties of the soap opera are not always so apparent as they are in Bishkek. Quite the contrary: it was recently reported from a small town in southern Russia that a man had been stabbed to death in a family row over one episode.

In recent weeks, the attention devoted to the serial has reached almost hysterical proportions. The head of a collective farm in Konstantinova, one of the remotest parts of Kirghizia, has cut off all electricity on his farm during the day to stop his workers watching repeats of the programme

when they should be harvest gathering. The story is based on the search for happiness by a woman cursed with sundry psychoses, appalling luck and permanently active tear ducts. It is seen by Russians as a welcome distraction from their woes, although the *Schadenfreude* of the title doubtless helps to fuel interest. The luckless characters in the soap, faster paced than the average European or American effort, romp through illicit affairs, abortions, divorces and at least one near-miss financial crisis in a single episode.

The power of *The Rich Also Cry* to disrupt even the most solid of institutions was demonstrated on Monday when Veronica Castro, the actress who plays Marianna, the main character, visited Moscow and went to the Bolshoi to see *Swan Lake*. The performance came to a virtual halt as her fellow members of the audience tried to mob her, wanting to know if she thought she could be attracted to a Russian man (on the basis of her fictional record, that should not be much of a problem). "Love is a hurricane, a violent storm. It always arrives unexpectedly," she breathed to enraptured sighs from her fans.

A poll published yesterday by Tass indicated that 43 per cent of Moscow citizens never miss an episode.



SED

Italy lukewarm to power plea

Amato allays fears of Rome opposition

FROM JOHN PHILLIPS IN ROME

ITALY'S parliament and currency markets yesterday gave a cool response to a formal request by Giuliano Amato, the Socialist prime minister, for special powers for three years to manage what he called the country's "economic emergency".

Signor Amato announced on Wednesday night that he would seek the special powers, provoking opposition fears that his proposal would amount to a surrender of parliamentary power and violate the constitution. In a speech to the Senate yesterday, the prime minister sought to allay these fears, saying the government was trying to find ways of shortening delays because economic decisions sometimes had to be made instantly.

Annual budgets would still be submitted to parliament for approval, he said, but the special powers would allow the government to revoke previously approved expenditure, raise taxes or pump investment into key sectors of the economy at short notice. Signor Amato said the govern-

ment faced on one hand the need for "instantaneous intervention" and on the other "the problem" of parliamentary timetables. Increasingly close relationships between the economies of many countries could lead to "devastating effects ... in terms of unemployment, prices, the cost of money, which may be avoided only by immediately effective measures".

No date has yet been set for voting on the proposal. Signor Amato is to address the Chamber of Deputies (lower house) next Wednesday. Some commentators believe that if parliament rejects the proposal it will be quietly shelved. Feeling that another approach might be adopted to bolster the existing decree law system. Unlike the Basic Law of Germany, which voted in similar special powers on the economy in 1967, the Italian constitution does not provide for states of emergency other than in wartime.

Strong speculation against the lira raged unabated yesterday with the Deutschmark closing at 765.40 lire on the

Milan currency market, one lira higher than the level on Wednesday. Carlo Ciampi, the Bank of Italy governor, insisted yesterday that there would be no devaluation. The bank believes devaluation would let the government off the hook on necessary cuts in public expenditure to bring down the budget deficit and public debt. But many commentators, including *La Stampa* newspaper, believe devaluation to be inevitable.

Signor Ciampi himself appeared lukewarm about the delegation of special powers, not least because Signor Amato had said in his proposal that extraordinary government intervention in the economy would be invoked only at the request of the governor of the central bank. "I ask myself if a small college would not be better than a single person," Signor Ciampi said. Such a committee would have to include people from outside the central bank, he added. Experts said Signor Ciampi feared that he might lose the central bank's independence.



Pet subject: a man in St Cloud, west of Paris, strolling past two posters, left, from the Communist party and the other from the extreme-right National Front, urging a "no" vote in the referendum on the Maastricht treaty

France in grip of poll frenzy

FROM CHARLES BRENNER IN PARIS

THIRTEEN million children trooped into school at the start of the new year yesterday and, according to a poll, 43 per cent of the girls had trouble sleeping the night before and 4 per cent could not get a wink.

Poll mania has never gripped France so intensely as in the countdown to Sunday, when their publication is banned for the final week of the Maastricht treaty referendum campaign. Last night, *l'opinion* reported 53 per cent in favour, a drop of three points in a week, with 47 per cent against and the undecided or abstainers dropping two points to 22 per cent.

Polls have driven the psychology of the campaign from the 60 per cent "yes" of the early summer to the majority "no" in late August and the ebb and flow of opinion over the past week. The question is how reliable these snapshots of the electoral mood are as an indicator of the referendum on September 20.

Several leaders on the "no" side have called foul this week. Jean-Pierre Chevènement, the Socialist dissident, said polls were being doctored to favour the "yes" side. Gerard Karcher, a Gaullist senator, complained to the state polling commission over surveys by Louis Harris and the CSA company. *Le Canard Enchaîné*, the satirical weekly, has accused the pollsters of "torturing the figures".

The firms deny the charge. "Our record is excellent," says Michel Brulé, the president of BVA, one of the six main polling organisations. France's other referendums of the past three decades closely followed poll findings, he said. With the exception of a Harris poll, the differences between companies have been less than their margins of error. M Brulé points out. These are usually about three points. The Harris poll that recorded a 59 "yes" vote on Wednesday also reported that four in ten voters were undecided or planned to abstain. The others put the undecided at about 25 per cent.

The pollsters agree that extreme volatility of opinion, not error, accounts for the swings tracked since June. "We are in an area where opinion is not ready-made, not structured by partisan sympathies," Jérôme Jaffré, the head of Sofres, said this week. M Brulé said there was so much uncertainty because "the referendum is more and more becoming not a question of Europe but of the credibility of the whole establishment: politicians, businessmen, Nobel prize winners and the rest".

The main target of the critics is the pollsters' method. They use the computer-assisted telephone interview system, in which pollsters telephone voters at random and collect the opinions of a representative 800 to 1,000 voters across the country. The feature that leaves the French system most open to criticism is the practice of adjusting the figures to reflect the propensity of voters to lie about their affiliation.

Greece jails wanted Stasi agent

Athens: A former East German security service agent, Helmut Voigt, 50, who is wanted in Germany on terrorism charges, was jailed for ten months yesterday for using a false passport to enter Greece.

Germany, which requested Voigt's arrest, will seek his extradition to face charges of complicity in murder, stemming from the 1983 bombing of a French cultural centre in West Berlin in which one person was killed. Voigt, who is suspected of supplying a terrorist with 55lb of explosives for the 1983 attack, said he would ask for political asylum in Greece. (Reuters)

Rebels killed

Tbilisi: About 30 nationalist Abkhazi rebels were killed in a mine explosion, the Georgian National Guard reported. They were trying to pass between the National Guard and rebel lines between Echera and Achadur. (AFP)

Fallen idols

Budapest: Statues recalling communism or any subject connected with it will be removed from Budapest's public places, at a cost of at least £80,000, before October 23, the anniversary of the 1956 uprising, officials said. (AFP)

To cap it all

Oslo: Norwegian social security refused to buy a £17 baseball cap for Arne Johansen, who is losing his hair from cancer treatment, but offered to buy him a wig worth more than £125 instead. (Reuters)

Hamburg parents fight refugee influx

FROM IAN MURRAY IN BONN

PARENTS in the smart and leafy northeastern Hamburg suburb of Ohlstedt have been manning the barricades against foreigners and successfully beating them back.

With near military organisation, the parents set up rotas by day to block all the ways into the local primary school and posted guards round it by night. Their mission was to stop lorries bringing in containers to house refugees.

The young parents may be puppets, but they are certainly not skinheads. Typical of Germany's prosperous middle class, many support the Social Democrats (SPD) and say they are ashamed and horrified by television pictures of right-wing thugs attacking the police outside refugee hostels. "We are ready to integrate with refugees immediately," according to Horst Koch, one of the fathers on the barricades. "But we had to stop them bringing in the containers."

Hamburg wanted to set up 40 container mobile homes on the school playground. The city administration picked the site

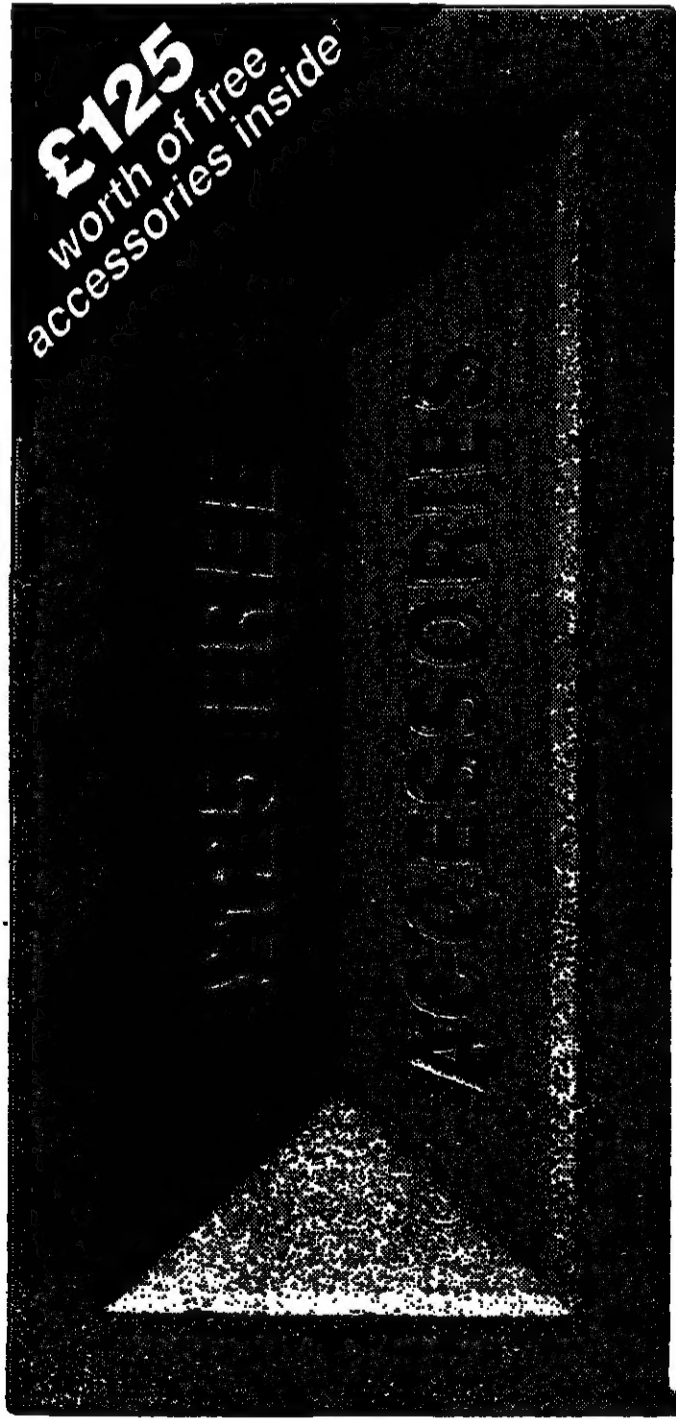
because it has all but run out of space to house the 150 new asylum seekers and 50 ethnic German settlers sent to Hamburg every day under the federal quota system for sharing the burden of accommodating the refugees. The city hoped to set up the containers in the playground for at least 100 of them.

The parents, however, had other ideas. Although they said they had nothing against foreigners, they became instant ninjas (not in my school yard) and built the barricades. Prepared for a long siege, they set up a mess tent equipped with camp beds, hot coffee and garden chairs for the volunteer guards. Parents said they were worried not only that there would be nowhere for the pupils to play, but also that their children would be assaulted and the crime rate would rise.

Faced with this stand, the city authorities caved in yesterday and promised to find an alternative site for the containers. It will not be easy. Like cities all over Germany, Hamburg is also overflowing with asylum seekers.

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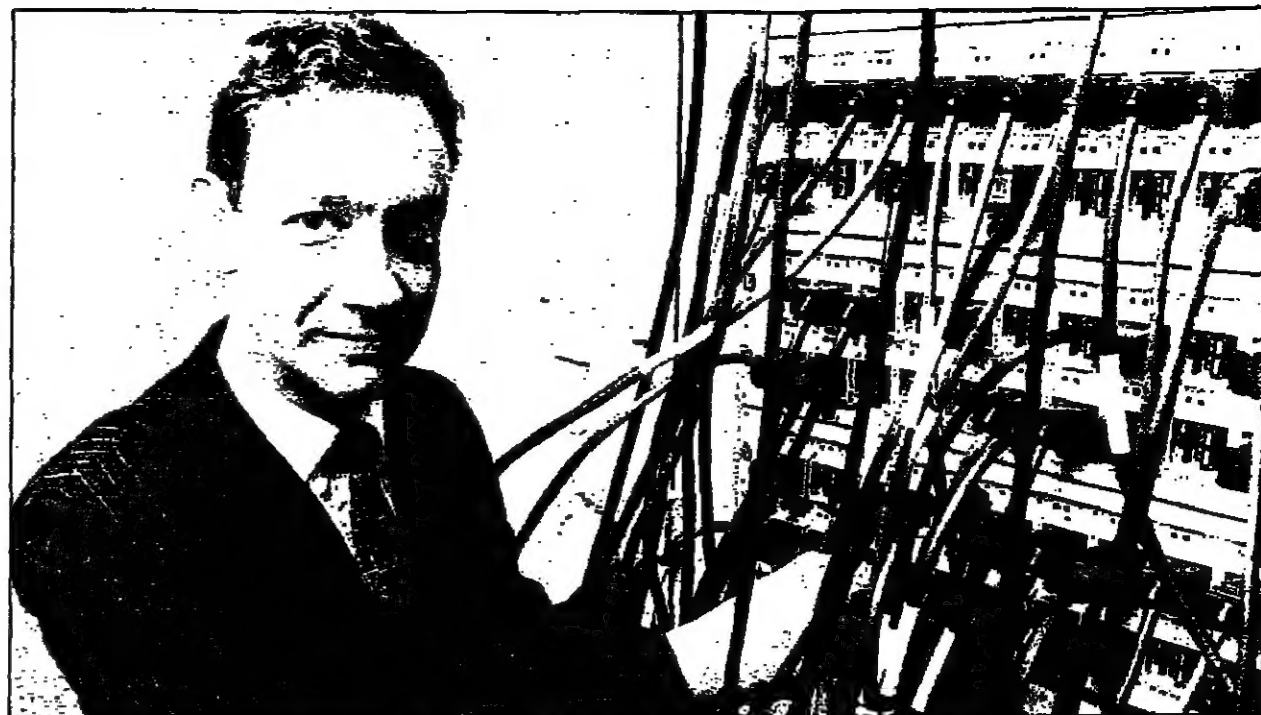
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Driving down the cost: Ron Atwood halved the Mid Kent Water company's spending on information technology



Making the connections: Martin Taylor of Madge shows the conventional cables that create a network

Thinking small when times are tough

Two of the most common buzzwords in the computer industry at present are "downsizing" and "right-sizing", but like most slick terminology they are rarely adequately defined. All computer sales people tend to adapt the terms to suit their product portfolio, whether that is a mid-range system, a desktop workstation, a personal computer or a PC network.

The principle of downsizing and right-sizing means the transfer of applications that have previously run on large, expensive machines — mainframe or minicomputer — to smaller cheaper machines. Downsizing seems an attractive option as smaller machines are becoming more powerful and mainframes and minicomputers often have the disadvantage of running proprietary operating systems that lock customers into a single supplier. Some, however, doubt the seeming simplicity with which downsizing can be achieved.

Robin Bloor, the chief executive of the consultancy Butler Bloor, believes that many companies with a downsizing approach could be building up long-term problems.

"Businesses with personal computers all over their desks have lost an element of data security, but the financial management does not realise that this reduced security could

Switching from large machines is not only sound economics,

Sean Hallahan writes. The move also changes company culture

lead to financial loss in the future," he says. Software development on new projects is another area where he believes that the majority of suppliers have not yet fully adapted their mainframe development tools to smaller systems.

Mr Bloor does not oppose downsizing, but advises caution in the implementation of the process and being wary of financial equations that are attractive now but could cause trouble in a few years. Still, the equations look good. Hardware prices can be a quarter of those of a mainframe, and sometimes the systems can cost less than a mainframe's maintenance costs alone.

Mid Kent Water made considerable real savings when it dropped an old ICL mainframe and downsized to servers and PC local area networks. Robert Atwood, the

financial director of Mid Kent Water, says the company halved its £1.5 million annual expenditure on information systems. He explains: "When I joined Mid Kent Water in September 1990, I was confronted with the problem that

information technology was costing a ridiculous proportion of our total turnover. The first thing that I did was call in a consultant who knew more about IT than I did. We did not use the word down-

sizing, which we are all now throwing about quite liberally. It was a question of controlling costs."

The consultant was John Rankin, who recommended the collection of new, smaller computers while the mainframe was farmed out to a facilities management company, where it continues to run a few applications that are not run on the new equipment.

Mr Rankin knows that security is often said to be lacking on such systems. "Although it is weak, it is improving," he says. Mr Rankin is certain that although the operating system Unix can be deficient in some areas of security, enough safeguards are built within the total system to overcome any problems.

As a further precaution, Mid Kent has set up a special project team to investigate all aspects of security.

Both Mr Rankin and Mr Atwood say there is more to downsizing than buying a smaller and less expensive machine. Mr Atwood says: "We were not only changing the hardware, we were changing the whole culture. A large number of people have become used to having access to tools like spreadsheets on screen in front of them."

There are, of course, more tangible benefits. "The electricity bill for the mainframe machine alone was about £1,000 a month. This has been significantly reduced," Mr Rankin says. Software licenses, calculated on the basis of how many users are connected to the mainframe, have also been cut.

Downsizing may be a more complex, and potentially expensive, process than the glib marketing jargon would have us believe but can certainly be worth investigating — with care.

If you are managing a computer network you did not set up, or buying one from scratch, you are not alone. Selecting and installing an appropriate local area network is difficult for many companies.

Growth in personal computer sales in recent years, coupled with an increasing desire to share information held in different software applications, has heightened the need for a way to allow such machines to work together.

In 1989, seven out of ten personal computers sold were to be used by themselves. This year, market research reports, less than half will be "stand-alones".

Being able to link portable computers into the corporate network is also becoming fashionable as professionals opt out of meetings to spend more time with customers.

The connection process should soon be made easier by technology that uses credit card-size network adapters. With special software inside the portable, users can access information stored in network files and printers.

New portables with built-in radio frequency transmitters — so-called "wireless modems" — can be connected to a corporate network from virtually anywhere. Important update information can also be automatically sent to a portable, wherever it is.

Stand-alone computers are no longer enough, Clive Couldwell reports: networking is the name of the business communications game

More conventionally, networks consist of cables that link personal computers so that they can exchange information. Usually one computer on the network holds information that needs to be centrally stored and controls the sharing of costly peripherals such as printers.

The three main cabling methods are twisted-pair, co-axial and fibre-optic.

All should be considered and probably mixed. Ideally, cabling should connect

the telephone with data communication, and planning should look several years ahead. "More intelligence is being applied to the cabling infrastructure of networks to locate and isolate any faults to keep the network as bullet-proof as possible," says Martin Taylor, the product marketing manager at Madge Networks.

"As networks get bigger, more people depend on them

and it becomes more important to prevent faults from bringing them down." Local area networks suffer from several drawbacks. Although the technology allows complicated work, there are more components to go wrong and they undoubtedly do.

There is also a confusion of products on sale and a lack of standards to ensure that they will all work with one another.

Predicting how technology will change in the short to medium term when developments are moving so fast is difficult for those who find the responsibility for managing a network has been dumped on them. Several related issues have to be considered — what are staff likely to want from the product chosen, to which standard is a product likely to conform and how much it will all cost.

The ability of different parts

of the company to communicate has become a key factor in responding quickly to changing market conditions. Ideally a network adds value to the information by making it available to the right person, in the right form and at the right time.

One of the more publicised new technologies in networking is that of groupware. Using products based on the concept of people working together, those on a network should be able to create collectively and modify files and documents at the same time, to brainstorm new ideas and to conduct meetings.

Another buzzword being used by suppliers to influence the way we regard network technology is "downsizing" — where applications are redeveloped to run on networks of personal computers rather than larger, centralised mainframe and minicomputers.

This approach has recently dashed in an area many have started to call the "server" market. Servers use powerful PC components and store copious quantities of information centrally. Dozens of other computers enjoy access to them by network links.

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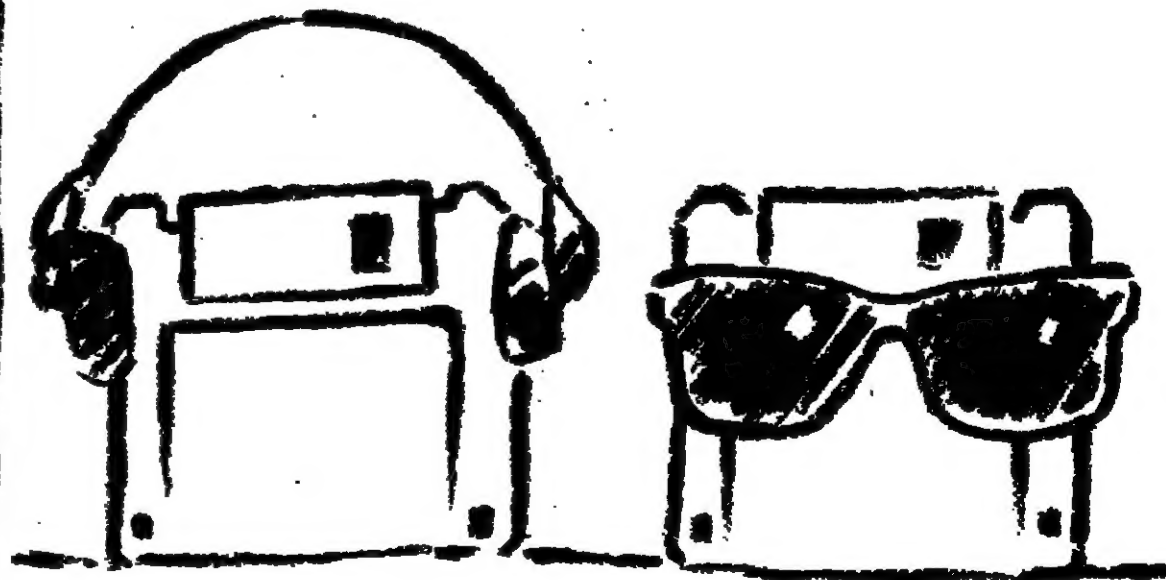


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The business bargain in a briefcase

The computer industry may be suffering, but buyers have never had it so good, as next week's Business Computing 92 exhibition at Earls Court, London, will illustrate. The falling cost of microprocessor power, combined with oversupply in the recession-hit market, has created a feast of high-specification machines at bargain prices.

There is more choice than ever, plus the opportunity to pick up extras such as software or peripherals in a package deal.

Price-cutting on personal computers is not new. The difference is that now everybody is doing it: even IBM and Compaq have introduced "budget-price" ranges. Now most manufacturers offer PCs of similar specification, and fight it out on price. Fortunately for the industry, some new technologies in the offing should help to stimulate the market during the next few years. One of the biggest developments is portability. Dataquest, a market research company, says European portable sales grew by 41 per cent in 1991, four times faster than those of PCs overall.

One consultant who has been converted to portable computers is David Freeman, the director of audit computer services at Arthur Andersen, the accountancy firm and business consultancy. Whether he travels on business, his Compaq goes with him. "You can get all the functions you need in a portable computer, so why have a desktop machine at all?" Mr Freeman says. "The portable is a versatile tool. Having it in my briefcase is like being able to walk around with my office." The view is mirrored by the company as a whole: already 400 partners and associates have switched to portable computers.

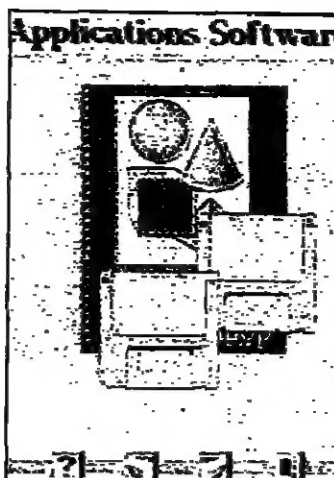
Mr Freeman, as well as being part of the mobile-computing

Executives need not feel isolated from their PCs when they are out of the office.

Jane Bird reports on the latest products



Alan Sugar's new baby: tutorial jumbo graphics for the PC7000



trend, also has to advise on computing generally. One technology he considers underrated is CD-ROM, a technique of storing hundreds of thousands of pages of computerised information on a single compact disc, from which individual items can be instantly retrieved. It has been held back by incompatibility between different brands and high prices for the software. "This is information at your fingertips," he says. "You can carry a CD-ROM on your shoulder and plug it in anywhere you need it, but people have not yet recognised the potential."

Already it is possible to send and receive faxes via computer termi-

nal, and to plug into remote databases to pick up information.

As telecommunications networks become more sophisticated, transmitting and receiving computer data could become almost as easy as making a telephone call. Improved data communications should spur growth in the PC market by making tasks such as document image processing, group working, speech recognition, computer-aided design and video-conferencing easier to perform.

In a few years, experts forecast that desktop PCs will be able to understand 20,000 words spoken in natural language, perhaps twice as many as in the average adult's

The system is so simple that even the technical boffins like it

active vocabulary. Another innovation is pen-based systems, which enable a user to write on a flat computer screen with an electronic stylus.

Ease of use is a feature claimed by every computer maker and delivered by few. One company trying hard in this area is Amstrad, which will be offering a new range of computers at the show.

Amstrad pioneered easy home computing in the early 1980s when it introduced the first home computer system to have a single plug. Now, in typical Amstrad style, it is offering money back to anyone who buys its NC100 Notepad computer and cannot use it in five minutes. Alan Sugar, the founder and chairman of Amstrad, does not expect many returns. "It is so simple to operate," he says, "that even the technical boffins like it."

Amstrad's new PC7000 range will even come with a removable sticker showing how to put the system together, and an on-screen tutorial featuring jumbo graphics to take users through the basics.

Mr Sugar admits: "There is nothing technically new about our latest machines. The PC7000 is a me-too, bread-and-butter product."

Amstrad, he adds, is in the PC race to stay because of lower overheads. "We are the Ford Motor Company of the computer industry. We shall stick it out until others throw in the towel."

Less confident of survival are the dealers and resellers. Their businesses are collapsing or being swallowed at a rate of 400 every six months, according to Romtec, a Berkshire market-research company. The price war has heavily eroded dealer profit margins, and by using direct sales, manufacturers are able to undercut them.

Mail order is one of the fastest-growing areas of the business. As users become more sophisticated, they are often happy to buy products direct from an advertisement and install the equipment themselves if it means lower prices.

To survive, dealers are having to develop specialist knowledge on target markets or become expert in putting together hybrid systems based on equipment from a variety of different suppliers. However, it

may have gone too far: some dealers are being wooed by manufacturers who have belatedly realised that there are still customers who value the advice and hand-holding that a dealer can provide.

Mr Sugar, for example, complains that retailers are being given deals by other manufacturers that he cannot match. He says: "There are some marvellous offers, such as sale-or-return, as well as price

protection, which allows retailers to drop the price at their own discretion without losing their profit margin."

As manufacturers, distributors, resellers and retailers suffer, it is good news for consumers. Never has there been a better time to buy a personal computer.

Business Computing 92 will take place at Earls Court, London, from next Tuesday to Friday.



You can take it with you: David Freeman, a computer expert, and his versatile portable

Speedy software saves church fund

Software sales have grown remarkably in the past year, but it has not been a time of innovation. Visitors to the Business Computing 92 show will find some new products at competitive prices, but most are old favourites in new guises.

The predominant theme is compatibility with Microsoft Windows, which by using small diagrams makes personal computers and their software easier to use than the heavily text-based DOS operating system used on most PCs.

To the surprise of many people, integrated software also remains popular. It allows information from word processor, spreadsheet and database to be combined through a single program that contains all three functions.

Nowadays, the consistent way that all Windows applications work seems to do away with the need for that.

"Everyone had integrated packages written off a year ago," says Mick Andon, the editor of *What PC?* magazine.

The sophistication of the big applications had outgrown the basic word processor and spreadsheet that are bundled into an integrated package. He believes, however, that one reason integrated applications are making a comeback is their smallness.

"With the popularity of light notebook computers, people do not want to use up limited hard disc space. An integrated application takes much less space than Windows and an assortment of separate software packages."

However, the main selling point, at a time when applications software is becoming more complex and taking up more computer memory and disc space, is their simplicity and ease of use. The most consistently popular integrated piece of software has been Microsoft Works.

Such software proved invaluable to Janet Wootton, who is the minister of the Union Chapel in Islington, north London, when she launched a fund-raising appeal.

"We used it to produce a £4 million plan to restore and develop what is probably the finest Victorian chapel in the country," she says.

How high-tech helped a minister produce a £4 million appeal plan

council grant. A business plan had to be urgently completed, but much of the information needed had been supplied almost too late.

Mrs Wootton says: "We had to work fast to meet our application in, and integration let us work at high speed. My husband was doing the spreadsheets as I was writing the text and doing the layout. 'I could put his work into the document in seconds. We



Janet Wootton: computer kept the deadline

handed it in with one minute to spare — we could not have done it without an integrated package."

"The software market has held up better than anyone expected," says Marek Vaygett, the research director at the market analyst Romtec. "Sales are up 60 per cent on the year before, but a lot of that is because of the changeover from DOS systems to Windows. People are buying new versions of their existing software so that they can use Windows."

By now, almost all big software manufacturers have started to produce their mainstream products in Windows versions. Even DOS programs may have to work in a similar way to Windows if they are not to appear outdated.

One of the last companies to make the switch has been Wordstar, which once led the

word-processing field. Wordstar for Windows will be on display at the show, along with a new DOS version that has "Windows-like" diagrams.

Meanwhile, the present market leader, Word Perfect, has introduced new versions of its package using Windows and the presentation graphics package Draw Perfect. In addition, Claris, Apple Computer's software house, is introducing a Windows version of Filemaker Pro, the most popular database application for Apple Macintosh systems.

Overall, the bestselling applications continue to be word processing and spreadsheets — although one change in recent years has been the rise of anti-virus applications — two, Central Point and Dr Solomon's, are among the top ten software packages.

Most integrated software is based upon existing applications which have been reduced in size and altered to make them work together.

The newly announced Word Perfect Works, for example, contains Letter Perfect, a "cut-down" version of Word Perfect.

"This sort of thing is quite easy for large companies to do," Mr Andon says. According to Mr Vaygett, there has also been an increase in sales of another kind of integrated product, the "office" package. This is a boxed set of word processor, spreadsheet and other business applications at a greatly reduced price. Microsoft Office, for example, contains £1,600 worth of software for £575 and accounted for 51 per cent of the company's sales last month.

"It is a good time to buy, but you do not get something for nothing: there is a reason why these packages are cheap," Mr Vaygett says. "You will find that out when you look at the cost of the upgrades."

His advice to would-be buyers is: "Go for a mainstream package from a main vendor — they all work properly these days. There will be upgrades and support, and there is not much to choose between them."

While there are welcome improvements to this year's crop of new products, there are few surprises. The existing software companies have mature product lines, and the market has too much inertia to make it easy for revolutionary products to break in.

KIM WILSON

Bird brain!



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Whose line is it anyway?

Telephone technology that can deter bomb hoaxers and sex pests is welcome, but there are drawbacks. Matthew May explains

More than eight out of ten phone calls made in Britain can now be traced within a few seconds. By the end of next year, that figure will rise to 90 per cent, which will deter dangerous callers such as kidnappers and bomb hoaxers. In the past, they have had to be kept talking while the calls were traced manually.

As the number of electronic and digital exchanges has increased, so too has BT's ability to provide new services, such as identifying malicious callers. Recently the company announced that it will spend £11 million a year to maintain 14 regional offices to give help to the victims of possibly 15 million mischievous calls each year.

As part of the service, the exchange can be programmed to recognise an agreed digit on the customer's telephone. Once this is set up, the customer has only to press the chosen button if a malicious call is received. This sounds an alarm and produces a printout of both numbers.

However, the new technology potentially offers a far more controversial service, which is permitted in about half of the states of America, but banned in others on the ground of privacy. It is known as caller identification or "caller-ID", and uses a special unit next to the subscribers telephone to display a caller's number, enabling subscribers to decide whether or not to answer a particular call. BT has now announced it is considering the introduction of caller-ID in Britain next year, a service that will cost users about £50 a year.

By contrast with the United States, where the piecemeal introduction of the system and its proscription in some states means that it mostly works only for local calls, the BT system will be national and display the number of virtually any call made within Britain.

BT is promoting the new service as a useful guard against obscene or harassing calls, but there are disadvantages. To begin with, caller-ID greatly reduces the advantage of being ex-directory, as more than 20 per cent of London telephone subscribers choose to be, since ex-directory numbers are displayed like any others. Some American systems even display the subscribers name as well as the number they are calling from.

Some counselling organisations, such as the Samaritans, are particularly concerned that people should continue to be able to call them anonymously. Other groups, such as social workers, may have good reason for not wanting to give the number from which they are calling.

Other groups are delighted by caller-ID. Emergency services in America say it reduces hoax calls, and restaurants and food takeaways can be more sure of bookings and orders when they know the number of the person calling. Some mail order and finance companies in America have linked caller-ID to credit-rating databases so they can instantly check a caller's financial status, and other businesses match incoming numbers to their customer or marketing information records.

Soon, it will be possible for individual subscribers to compile lists of numbers that they want to be put through to their telephone automatically, while others are diverted to an answering machine. They will also be able to compile blacklists of numbers that will not even ring the telephone; the ideal way to avoid unsolicited canvassers or persistent



Numbers game: There are doubts about a new BT identification facility

ent double-glazing sales people.

Concerns over privacy, however, have ensured that in most American states where the service is allowed, and in Canada, it is matched by another new service, "call-blocking", which allows subscribers to opt out of the system, so that their numbers are not displayed to those with caller-ID. This raises the question of whether everyone should have the choice of opting out, or whether only those who can show a genuine need should be allowed to do so. And if call-

blocking is available to all, who should pay for it?

Some American systems have been obliged by local laws to offer free call-blocking, while others, such as those in Canada, have a blocking charge per call. This means that Canadians who want to remain ex-directory or anonymous now have to pay about 40p a call

more if they want their numbers not to be displayed. Many, not surprisingly, are furious, and say both services are merely ways for the industry to make more money.

Yet if call-blocking is free to everybody and sales reps and malicious callers start to use it, the very purpose of caller-ID is negated. To overcome this, a counter-revelation is being offered in the US. Anonymous call rejection allows caller-ID subscribers automatic refusal of any calls from numbers using a call-blocker.

For better or worse, all this confusion will soon be arriving in Britain. Authorities such as OfTel, the telecommunications monitoring body, and the European Commission, contend that when caller-ID is introduced, subscribers should also be allowed call-blocking services, but equally, they should be able to choose whether to accept calls from blocked numbers.

In a couple of years' time, telephone users may find themselves paying for one, two or three new services, with little net advantage.

The BT system will display the number of virtually every call made

The CD game of peace and quiet

High-tech touch for armchair entertainment

Computer video games, £30 apiece and a great favourite with children, have become an expensive way for parents to achieve peace and quiet in the home.

The UK market in computer games, succeeding vinyl LP records and videotapes in children's affections, is expected to be worth £500 million this year, almost doubling last year's figure of £275 million. The growth is largely due to two Japanese games companies, Sega and Nintendo, which produce cartridge-based systems.

Now Philips is hoping to win a share of that market with a system called Compact Disc Interactive (CD-I). This system stores sound, pictures and text on a compact disc, which is linked to a television set.

Because CD-I players are expensive, at about £600, and monopolise a television set, the Dutch electronics company is trying to promote the system as being suitable for the whole family and for information and education as well as entertainment.

Although Philips says that a wide variety of titles has been sold, it admits that the most popular discs are games.

"Whenever multimedia formats such as CD-I are mentioned, people talk about interactive encyclopaedias and other serious applications," says John Garcia, of Novologic, an American software company. "Let's be honest — we would all prefer a world in which our children sit in front of the television not watching a silly cartoon or playing video games, but using this powerful display device to absorb mountains of knowledge."

"However, this is just not going to happen. The computer software companies made a similar mistake in the mid 1980s. Every large publisher

rushed out to create so-called home productivity and educational software and got their fingers burnt."

Steve May, a London-based video journalist, says: "People do not want to be educated in

about 20,000 players are likely to be bought in the first year. The sales rate is faster, it says, than when compact disc players were introduced.

Simon Turner, Philips's CD-I director in the UK, says: "We have found that the typical CD-I purchaser has an average income of less than £17,500, which surprised us. CD-I is pulling in ordinary families, the type that would buy a satellite TV system." Mr Turner says that surveys suggest that CD-I is being used by all members of the family, rather than just the younger members. "CD-I has shown that you can sell multimedia products to the British public," he adds.

However, even if the main use of CD-I is eventually shown to be games, they will at least be better games with new features, such as high-quality moving video. They will also benefit the manufacturers of games.

"A games cartridge is about 20 times more expensive to produce than a CD," Mr Garcia says. "The format is bound to be attractive to cartridge-based games companies."

Gerry Berkeley, the computer games manager for HMV Records, says that lower production costs should mean cheaper computer games. "I'll believe that when I see it," he says.

GEORGE COLE



At home with a round of golf

the living room. They want to come home after a hard day's work and be entertained."

Not surprisingly, Philips disagrees. The company says CD-I is a family product, is selling better than expected and that

Oh, Mister Porter!

Computers tried AST's Premium Exec colour A4-notebook PC on the Morse/AST stand at Waterloo this week. Morse offer: 386SX/25C, 80Mb disk, Lotus 1-2-3 for Windows, Ami Pro, Windows 3.1, mouse, data/fax modem, £1995. Left the station but can be caught in Holborn until 18 Sept. Price subject to VAT at 17.5%.

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7	Scottish Power	Electricity	
8	Scotish Power	Electricity	
9	Johnson Math	Industrial	
10	Waters	Banking	
11	Scot & New	Breweries	
12	Marshall	Drugs	
13	Chad Wicks	Electricity	
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Please take into account any minor signs

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Please make a note of your daily total for the weekly dividend of 64,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.

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Two readers share the Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Miss A Ward, of Newmarket, and Miss F Woodman, of County Down, each receive £2,000.

High Low Company Price Bid Ask % P/E

BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

No.	Company	Price	Bid	Ask	%	P/E
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12	London City	100	99.5	100.5	0.5	10.5
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MOTURING TIMES



The results of a £100 million-plus budget: the Ghia estate version and the saloon car of the latest Ford Escort. Alterations include a distinctive new grille and important safety improvements

So why another Escort revamp?

Ford's £1 billion ugly duckling may have finally turned into a swan. On October 1, the company unveils a new version of the bestselling car, boasting that the changes are not just skin-deep but include substantial revisions, from the distinctive new bonnet grille to ten major safety improvements.

The question for thousands of drivers who bought their Escorts during the two years since the car was relaunched is, why is it so different?

Ian McAllister, Ford of Britain's chairman, says the changes are part of the company's strategy of "continuous product development". Critics will say that Ford got the Escort badly wrong first time around.

The Escort was a critical flop when it crept back onto the show-

room floors in 1990. The car had been Britain's bestseller for eight years because it was better than the opposition. This was a hard act to follow but there was no need to worry. Ford had 2,500 engineers on the job of creating the Escort for the 1990s and reportedly had £1 billion to spend. The result of all the effort was a blockbuster that was greeted about as warmly as an Arsenal supporter walking onto the terraces at Tottenham's White Hart Lane.

The car had been put through the most intensive customer "clinics" of almost any model produced in recent years. By the time public opinion had been added to the input of Ford's cumbersome management structure, the car had been designed by committee. The 1990 look was almost unchanged from the 1980s version, and there was almost nothing new under the

Ford is right to relaunch its little bestseller, Kevin Eason says.

And this time, the design will work

bonnet. A hidebound Ford had been too scared to change a winning formula.

That the Escort is still the nation's bestselling car in 1992 says a lot for the power of Ford's marketing people — but at what cost was this triumph achieved? Price-cutting your way to top slot is not a commendation for any car, as Ford was well aware, particularly after chalking up record losses of £587 million last year.

The Escorts and Orion saloons that arrive in showrooms next month will have cost at least £100 million to redesign, not to mention the retooling of the Halewood

factory on Merseyside where the car is built.

But Ford had to make changes to bring some credibility back to its most important small car — and the changes are all worthwhile.

The simple addition of a new bonnet grille and sleeker line dissipates some of the blandness that cursed the 1990 Escort, and gives the new car some identity. Minor changes to lamp formations improve the appearance and there is 11 per cent more glass in the Escort tailgate to improve rear vision.

Ford has at last got a line-up of engines to match the power packs

of most of its competitors. Although Rover, Vauxhall, the Japanese makers and others have had 16-valve engines in small cars for some time, Ford has just filtered in its new Zeta range of engines.

Buyers can choose from five Zeta 16-valves, together with older 1.3 HCS or 1.4 CVH engines (now with catalytic converters). There is also a 1.8-litre diesel. That family of engines gives all-round improvements in performance and fuel economy (about 31mpg in town in the 1.6-litre).

Under the skin, there are ten unseen changes to the body structure, which will be welcomed by Escort and Orion drivers who have the misfortune to be involved in a crash.

Tougher side rails, cross members behind the dashboard panel, roof pillars and the addition of side impact bars all contribute to mak-

ing the Escort/Orion safer. The cars have successfully survived crash impact tests at 30mph, as required by legislation, and at 35mph, when the car has to absorb 35 per cent more energy. There is also a new steering wheel with an energy-absorbing rim to cushion the driver's head in the worst impacts.

There may be some ruffled feathers among motorists who bought their Escorts in August, little realising that their model would be changed so radically within a few weeks.

Ford, however, had no alternative. The company faces an uphill struggle for survival over the next few years in the face of the huge competition from Japanese car makers, who are now based in the UK, and from the fast-improving cars coming from manufacturers on the Continent.

Beware of in-car fumes

Drivers breathe their own pollution

THE noxious chemicals and pollution spilling from a car's exhaust may be doing more damage to the driver and passengers inside than has previously been supposed.

Investigations on behalf of Greenpeace by Earth Resources Research, an environmental research group based in London, indicate that concentrations of nitrogen dioxide (a gas that has been linked with asthmatic attacks and respiratory diseases) and carbon monoxide (which has been linked with ischaemic heart disease) can sometimes exceed World Health Organisation and EC recommended safety levels inside motor vehicles.

The report suggests that cyclists and pedestrians may be less at risk from motor car pollution than the people who produce it.

In studies in Europe and the United States, researchers have analysed pollutant levels in different driving conditions and at different times of the year. They also found that interior pollution tends to be worse when air-conditioning systems and heaters are switched on.

Inside the car, the levels of carbon monoxide can be from two to 14 times higher than air 50 to 100 yards away from the vehicle, and nitrogen dioxide levels can be from 1.3 to 2.5 times higher.

The report also claims that levels of benzene — a pollutant that penetrates cars from the exhaust, the engine and the petrol tank — can be between two and 18 times as high inside as outside the vehicle. According to the WHO, "no safe level for airborne benzene can be recommended, as benzene is carcinogenic to humans and there is no known safety threshold".

The highest levels of carbon monoxide and benzene build up inside cars in dense, slow-moving traffic and in stable air conditions. The pollution levels may be aggravated by the age of the car and the condition of the exhaust.

Charlie Kronick, Greenpeace's transport campaigner, says: "There is no safe haven from traffic pollution."

Mr Kronick, who points out that by 2025 traffic is expected to have increased by 142 per cent, adds: "Winding up the window won't help. Drivers cannot simply shut themselves away from the effects of the pollution they create. The only real solution is to cut the number of cars on our roads."

NICK NUTTALL



In charge: Deborah Saybolt

THE THUD was the sound of dropping jaws as the engineer in charge of Britain's biggest selling car was announced, Kevin Eason writes. The engineer was Deborah Saybolt, female, attractive and young — attributes that provoke enormous suspicion among many in the deeply masculine world of motoring.

Women are not supposed to enjoy the intimate workings of cars, let alone be in charge of one of the most important car design programmes in the country. It has taken an American to break the British mould.

Mrs Saybolt approached her job as programme manager for the Escort/Orion redesign from a background in General Motors, Chrysler and Ford — America's three big car companies.

"It never occurred to me that I could not be an

engineer," she says. "I was always interested in how things worked and my family often used to say that I would need to know how things like the plumbing worked."

From that early encouragement, Mrs Saybolt gained a degree in mechanical engineering before going on to the University of Michigan for masters degrees in engineering and business administration. She was soon on the fast track, starting as a trainee with GM before moving on to be a product development engineer with Chrysler and a senior manufacturing engineer at GM. Six years ago she was appointed a manager, responsible for tooling and equipping six US assembly plants.

The next step was to Britain, where Mrs Saybolt found that managers and workers were less prepared to encounter a woman in charge.

"Somehow, you are supposed to be ugly or masculine in some way to be involved in engineering," she says. But once you have proved you know what you are doing, men relax and things work out well."

Ian McAllister, Ford's chairman, clearly has no doubts about the capabilities of Mrs Saybolt, having handed her the plum job of signing off the two-year programme to redesign the company's bestselling range of cars.

Even though she may be younger than many senior managers already bound up in Ford's complex corporate structure (she pleads the Fifth Amendment when asked her age), the task of taking the Escort to market did not daunt her. She says: "I think we have substantially improved the car so that it is now the best in its sector."



No doubts: Ian McAllister

The woman who showed how to do it

As expensive cars flop in the auction rooms and on the second-hand market, Bentley brings out another model, this one costing almost £100,000

Dream machines stall

They are the dream cars nobody can sell. The fastest and most exotic sports models are being sent for auction, too expensive for their owners to keep but now becoming impossible to sell.

Evidence is growing that finance houses that have repossessed high-value cars want to sell to recoup their loans, while some hard-up collectors are also being forced to sell. Some owners are being pushed by their banks to get rid of their most valuable asset next to their houses to pay off debts and overdrafts.

Only last week, Lord Beaverbrook faced up to bankruptcy. His passion for classic Ferraris was said to have played a part in his problems. This, however, is the worst time to sell. Spiralling insurance premiums and worries over the cost of maintaining a high-powered but gas-guzzling model have scared away all but the true enthusiasts, and the buyers with an eye for a bargain.

Auction houses say that cars that have had their second-hand values reduced by 20 per cent and more over the past year are still failing to sell. Cars that eventually find buyers are fetching as much as £10,000 below their already devalued second-hand price.

An H-registered Jaguar XJ-S Le Mans V12, previously one of the



Fetching low prices: XJ-S, once one of the most coveted Jaguars

luxury car company's most desirable models, was sold at BRS Car Auctions last week for £15,500, although the original reserve was £25,000. The same model costs £41,800 new. A 1988 F-registered Porsche 911 Carrera Targa failed to make £24,000 and went for £19,500. The price of the same model new in the showroom today would be £50,579.

A 1990 Porsche 944 Turbo, which retailed new at about £36,000 earlier this year and was expected to fetch at least £20,000, could attract only £16,000.

Tom Atkins, the general manager of BRS Car Auctions, says: "They could almost be the cars that nobody wants. They are certainly the hardest cars to sell at the moment. A lot of cars are coming in specifically because they are repossessions or the owner needs to get rid of the car for financial reasons. That means they accept the price they can get and many of those prices are not good at all."

The slump may not spell the end of the high-performance, super-

luxury car that caught the imaginations of so many during the 1980s boom. But there is a struggle ahead, according to CAP Nationwide, the motor industry research group. Its September bulletin says: "The demand for high-powered exotics is at an all-time low. Looking at the lists of new models to be introduced into the UK over the next 12 months, it is baffling as to who is going to buy these expensive toys."

The model-by-model CAP bulletin reads like an obituary list for some of the world's most famous cars. CAP says that the Alfa SZ coupé is available, but few dealers are willing to stock it. The Aston Martin Virage is "very difficult to retail". There are "quite a few" Ferrari 308 and 328 models available, mainly from finance companies and collectors, and Testarossa values continue to fall. When considering the XJ-S, CAP warns dealers to "value carefully", because prices are still sliding.

The Japanese are also finding second-hand buyers difficult to locate. Nissan's 200SX and 300SX sports cars are losing value and out of favour, CAP says.

Among Porsches, more than any other model the symbol of wealth and success during the 1980s, the Carrera 4 is "struggling to find retail buyers", the Turbo is "hard work" and the 928 "very difficult to retail".

Sales of new Porsches are down significantly — to 786 so far this year, compared with 1,320 last year. The dip is so bad that John Edwards, Porsche's marketing manager, says dealers are selling six used cars for every new one.

K.E.

The new economy saloon

Perhaps a £91,000 Bentley is not the obvious item to put at the top of anyone's shopping list in the present economic climate. The recession has sent some of this country's rich into bankruptcy while even the very rich are now reluctant to open their brimming purses.

The result has been a rapid decline in sales of the most luxurious cars in the world, such as those gorgeous saloons that come from Rolls-Royce's works at Crewe, Cheshire. Rolls-Royce and Bentley sales in Britain topped 1,000 in 1990 but that figure dropped to 513 last year and shows little sign of reviving significantly.

In the circumstances, Rolls-Royce might have been forgiven for postponing the launch of its Bentley Brooklands model.

In defiant mood and showing some true British grit, the motor manufacturer refuses to see the Brooklands, which it describes as a Bentley for first-time buyers, as a hostage to fortune.

Indeed, the Brooklands is the second new Bentley to be unveiled in 18 months, following the spectacular Continental R coupe. Just as the Continental R was launched on the back of the company's historic links with Le Mans, so memories of Brooklands, the legendary Surrey racing circuit, are evoked for the new car. Bentley enjoyed many racing victories at Brooklands as well as setting records such as the 1932 fastest lap of 138mph by "Tim" Birkin in a 4.5-litre Bentley Blower.

Walker Owen Bentley took part in his first race at Brooklands in 1909, so it was appropriate that the new car should be seen for the first time on the circuit's sloping banks for its launch.

Rolls-Royce says that the modern Brooklands model is not only sufficed with the latest technology, but a sound investment.

To the uninitiated, the Brooklands looks outwardly similar to the Turbo R. The differences, how-



Brooklands revisited: the new Bentley, named after the circuit, and one of its racing predecessors

ever, include new 15in. alloy wheels, integral fog lamps and a seamless bonnet without a central ridge, which makes the front seem even larger from behind the steering wheel.

Inside is the usual splendid and luxurious finish, plus new hide trimmings on the doors. And the gear shift is moved to a central console. The computer-controlled suspension keeps the car level, and there is full anti-lock braking to eliminate skid.

Enormous power from the 6.75-litre V8 engine is handled by an automatic four-speed gear box that delivers the power in one long surge. On the road, the car's handling belies its size (more than 17ft long, almost 7ft wide and weighing two tonnes) and performance is, as Bentley says, more than adequate. No performance figures are given but the top speed, as the company

so coyly puts it, is "in excess of 130mph", where possible on unrestricted Continental roads.

The car's presence is phenomenal. Few if any vehicles can match the Bentley's ability to give the driver the impression that every road is private, or the feeling that one is driving through the grounds of one's own estate. The road-holding, however, takes time to become accustomed to, because one simply does not expect such a big car to attack corners so well.

Inside, the Connolly leather and the Wilton carpet create a cocoon of comfort, while the burr walnut and polished chrome all gleam. It is a delightful cocoon, but one that may seem outdated given the harsh economic concerns of the time. Not so, according to Michael Donovan, Rolls-Royce's commercial director. The pace is being forced by the growing number of Japanese mak-

ers entering the luxury sector, and competition from Mercedes-Benz with cars such as the 600SEL, with its £88,000 price-tag.

Mr Donovan says: "We are seeking a wider target audience of highly successful individuals who may not have been in the market for a car of this value but who are looking for a firmer sportier performance, along with the luxurious features synonymous with the Bentley marque. This is a great opportunity for Bentley. There is always a call for exclusivity, whatever the economic conditions."

Believe it or not, that kind of desirability lasts, whether the economy is unkind or not. So Bentley is probably right about the appeal of its expensive products.

A German executive told me recently why he bought the most expensive cars on the market. "Why eat hamburgers when you can have steak or wear a Rolex if you can afford a Rolex?" he said.

That justification is especially apt when applied to the craftsmanship from the Crewe works. Spending £90,000 on a Bentley is baffling only to those of us who don't have the money.

VAUGHAN FREEMAN



Difficult to sell: Porsche 928, the ultimate yuppie symbol

ott set for a
cord stand

old faces

Bring us our special marching corsets

Soap, shoes and corsets were all enlisted in the suffragette struggle. Rosie Millard previews an exhibition that shows how skilfully the campaign was run

Everyone knows about the suffragettes being tied to the railings, but what they were really brilliant at was marketing a campaign. According to Diane Atkinson at the Museum of London, the suffragette movement was the first political campaign with a real corporate identity. "The Purple, White and Green", an exhibition which opens at the museum on Tuesday, aims to do justice for the first time to their strategy.

Forget contemporary politicians with their red roses, blue torches and yellow birds: the suffragettes got there almost a century before the likes of Peter Mandelson and his fellow image makers. Publicity material from the struggle dating from 1900 includes a rather formidable Mrs Pankhurst, resolute on a bunion badge; a silver belt clasp showing a woman looming over the houses of parliament; and a slab of buttermilk soap from Cocks of London with the catchy slogan, "Vote for women", etched into its creamy surface.

"They invented a slogan, a colour scheme and an entire look; and they were so successful that all the big high street names were willing to join in with them," Ms Atkinson, curator of the exhibition, says.

The majority of suffragettes did not come from the working masses: the most prominent members were well-to-do, well educated, doyennes of society with a lot of spending power. How sensible therefore, for Jaeger to start selling corsets "especially for comfort in marching", or for Liberty to offer to make up any garment in the suffragette colour scheme of purple, white and green. (Purple for dignity, white for purity, green for fertility.)

Lilley and Skinner made suffragette slippers. Swan and Edgar, suffragette jewellery; even Allinson's bread developed the pithy slogan: "Vote for women and Allinson's bread".

There was suffragette entertainment. Pankhurst-Squith was a board game in which players undertook to avoid the police and find a way out of prison. While this was not quite staple family entertainment, the game illustrates how the campaign refused to exist on the margins of polite society; on the contrary, its organisers were the

very model of good manners. "They were like pop stars, you know," Ms Atkinson says. "When Mrs Pankhurst was released from one of her stints in Holloway prison, Selfridges flew a purple, white and green flag from the shop. When she came to speak at a rally, thousands came to hear her. Women fainted and had to be carried off."

In the exhibition is a suffragette Hall of Fame, showing sepia prints of the stars of the movement, complete with their beautifully rolled hair, high-collared shirts and hats. In an age where a woman driving a car was seen as an oddity, mothers left their needlepoint and dragged their daughters along to



Last suffragette: Victoria Liddard today, left, and aged 23, when she broke a window at the War Office. Above, suffragettes set about a policeman to prevent him from making an arrest

hear the suffragettes speak. In their long dresses and Edwardian blouses, "nice" women from the genteel classes were inspired to fall behind leaders and encouraged to sell the newspaper *Vote for Women*.

"They had to stand in the road," says Ms Atkinson, "otherwise they would be arrested for obstruction." A Mrs Simmons and her three oldest daughters, who lived in Clifton, Bristol, were among those who marched off to hear such a rally. One of the daughters, Victoria, now Victoria Liddard, is nearing 103; the only surviving member of the movement, she now



paper, with his assistance they managed to circulate national information about their goings on. "We were news then," says Mrs Liddard, who at the age of 23 went up to London in 1912 on a specially chartered train to take part in the Window Smashing Campaign, a night whose achievements make some of today's political demonstrations look rather tame in comparison.

According to Mrs Liddard, "We went from Marble Arch to Tottenham Court Road smashing windows on one side of Oxford Street. That was on the Saturday. On the Monday, it was decided that suffragettes who didn't want to hunger strike should do something else. So I walked from Piccadilly Circus to Whitehall and smashed a window in the War Office."

Mrs Liddard beams, resplendent in diamond wing-tip glasses.

"I took a stone out of my pocket and threw it through the window. A policeman nearby couldn't believe I had done it, because I looked so innocent. He rushed up and gripped me by the arm. I was conducted to Bow Street by three policemen on foot and one on horseback."

The police discovered a further eight stones on Mrs Liddard, "in case the first one wasn't sufficient". She was tried and sentenced to two months hard labour in Holloway prison. "I was put in solitary confinement, in a cell with one tiny window and a straw mattress. On

the first night I lay down but I felt lifted up; spiritually helped. I slept well all night."

Mrs Liddard was imprisoned at the same time as the Titanic went down: a photograph of her taken then shows an elegant, perfectly turned out Edwardian lady. Yet she refused to wash in Holloway ("because I was a political prisoner"), refused to repent, and was given a certificate from the Women's Social and Political Union (the suffragettes' militant wing) "in recognition of imprisonment endured for the cause of women's enfranchisement".

"It just seemed the right thing to do," she says. "To fight for a vote. The year we got the vote (1918) Parliament had to debate a vast number of women's issues. They wouldn't have noticed us otherwise."

With their newspapers, their colour schemes, their banners, badges, hats, uniforms, and the ability to marshal thousands at a single rally, it is hardly surprising the suffragettes were noticed. Ms Atkinson hopes the exhibition will remind all contemporary campaigners how it was done. "I don't feel we have done them justice. No one has organised a campaign so well since; I wish every campaign would take a leaf out of their book. Even contemporary feminism should look more at what they did and how they did it."

● The Purple, White and Green: Suffragettes in London 1906-1914, is at the Museum of London, London Wall, from next Tuesday to June 13, 1993.

Arlott set for a record stand

Rarities collected by cricket's most famous voice come under the hammer today

John Arlott was the outstanding sports commentator of his generation. Knowledgeable, erudite and felicitous in his use of language, he shaped the art of cricket commentary after the war. He was a man of catholic tastes, as evidenced by the books, memorabilia and cricketiana that Christie's, South Kensington, is auctioning today and in a fortnight.

The collection, being sold by his widow, comprises more than 400 lots including a complete and original set of *Wisden Cricketers' Almanack*, signed first editions by William Golding, Dylan Thomas and T.H. White, more than 200 books detailing the history of magic and witchcraft, and even the door plate from Arlott's office at *The Guardian* (estimate £10-£50, with his NUJ card thrown in).

Christie's is no stranger to his property. A decade before Arlott's death last December it auctioned much of the contents of his cellar, which was no less eclectic than his other property. One of the finest private collections of wine in England, it realised £29,315. The auction house is now salivating over what it regards as the most important modern first editions to come on to the market in recent years.

The sale is likely to raise more than £100,000, because of the affection in which Arlott was held for his commentaries, journalism, books and poetry.

By his own admission, Arlott squandered away books, pictures, aquatints, Staffordshire figures, porcelain plates, even cigarette cards. Driven by the poverty of his youth, he made and spent money with alacrity. An original manuscript of an article in *The Guardian* by Sir Neville Cardus (estimate £150-£250) describes him as "a full man with a mind well-stocked, acquainted with the finest literature, a mind flavoured with a connoisseur's taste for pleasures of the senses, good wine, good food, good talk in good company... English and Hampshire par excellence."

The most valuable items in the sale are likely to be Arlott's *Wisdens*, dating from 1864 and individually signed. Alas, such is the worth of the earliest volumes that the collection could well be broken up, fetching, in all, a record £25,000.

Even some of Arlott's non-cricket books (for years he was the sole book reviewer for *Wisden* and thus was sent everything published on cricket) have a tinge of the game. A first edition of Golding's *Lord of the Flies* has an estimate of £700-£1,000 partly because of the inscription "For John Arlott from William Golding with thanks for fiery Fred". This refers to Arlott's

biography of Fred Trueman, the Yorkshire and England fast bowler, and the work he felt to be the best of the many he wrote.

There are 19 lots of E.M. Forster's work, including numerous signed first editions, and letters to Arlott. In one, he wrote of "being turned out" of his family house "by family friends". Forster added: "I hope you will enjoy Italy, although there can't be many bats and balls there..." (estimate £3,000-£5,000).

Dylan Thomas was a close friend to whom Arlott gave work when he was a poetry producer at the BBC. The ten lots of poems and first editions are expected to raise £3,000. There would have been more had Arlott not destroyed requests for work and other misadventures that would not have enhanced Thomas's reputation.

Yet it was for his love of cricket and cricketers that Arlott was best known. On September 25, in the



Arlott's lots: up for auction

second part of the sale, letters will be auctioned from Basil D'Oliveira, the "coloured" cricketer, whom Arlott helped bring from South Africa to England, where he eventually played for Worcestershire and his adopted country. "I do appreciate the fact that it will be quite an uphill battle to do well over there (England)," wrote the all-rounder before his departure from Cape

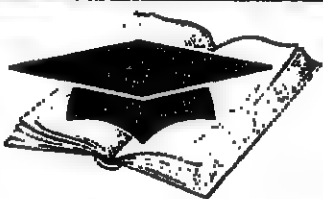
Town. In another letter, describing his return home after being successful in England, D'Oliveira wrote: "The Boers were agast that a darkie could get such an ovation... this, and the opening created now for our coloured cricketers, is due to your efforts, for which I and all South African non-white cricketers will always be grateful." The correspondence with D'Oliveira is expected to realise £300-£500.

Among the items of cricketiana there are 12 continental porcelain coloured biscuit cricketers figures including Trueman, W.G. Grace and Ian Botham, estimated to fetch £600-£800. They stood, as if still contesting Test matches of bygone years, on the mantelpiece of Arlott's sitting room on Alderney. In the Channel Islands, to which he retired, it was, though, a nominal retirement in that he continued working until his death at the age of 78. That Arlott's *Wisdens* and some other items are individually signed will only enhance their value. "There is a strong tide of sentiment running his way," says Rupert Neelds, head of books and ephemera at Christie's.

"Because they were his possessions, the prices will be heightened, and that goes for the first editions as well as the cricket items. Buyers could go crazy."

IVO TENNANT

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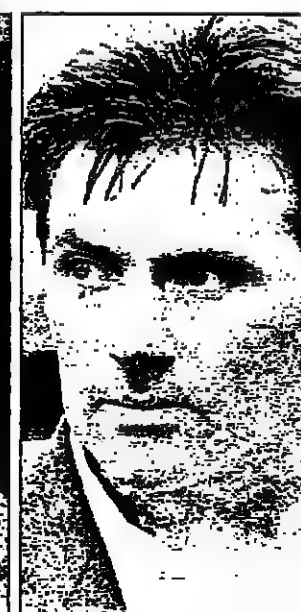
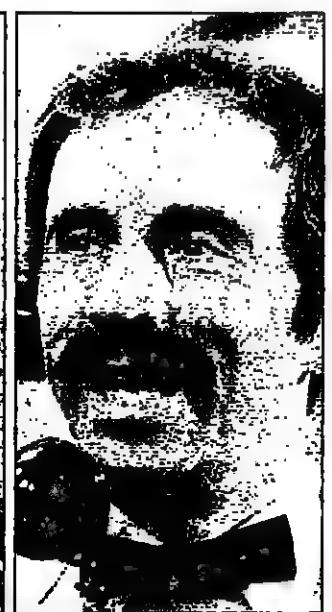
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THE TIMES

Let's lift Eldorado with some old faces

The idyllic Spanish home of British exiles could be brightened up with Dirty Den, Frank Bough and a failed detective looking for fugitives



Fresh line-up? Barbara Windsor as a crook's innocent ex-wife, mayor Manuel, Angie on the bottle, Billy on the run

antagonism. When Antonia has a problem with her car—a much loved antique Mini called Betty with a strong personality, which appears in the closing credits—she takes it to the car body repair shop run by Billy Corkhill.

Billy and Sheila left Brookside Close in a hurry—Billy is on the run from the law for reasons that will be revealed at a later stage. Sheila, after a brief spell on the stage, has resumed her career in sustained ardour.

Billy fraternises with a collection of Costa del Crime exiles, half a dozen felons on the run. The chief of these is called Ronnie, and his ex-wife, who has never been aware of his wrongdoings, is played by Barbara Windsor.

Lurking in the shadows is a British policeman with a burning ambition to bring these Costa criminals to justice. This character may be played by one of the many soap stars who have so distinguished themselves in one role that they have never worked again.

Consumed by rage as these felons enjoy their safe haven, the policeman waits for the incriminating evidence he needs.

The series needs a strong central female character, a pillar for the others to lean on, who listens to their problems and will never fail to crack under pressure. The bar, focus of the community, is up for sale. Angie Watts is seeking refuge after a turbulent romance with a rock star, which

may still be going on. He has given her the money to buy the bar, where she is constantly threatened by the demon drink.

One of the regulars in Angie's bar is Denis Tanner, who left Coronation Street in his twenties and went to London, where he rented a room in a boarding house owned by Ena Sharples's illegitimate daughter Flo—it was this mishap in her youth that drove Ena to religion. Denis has married Flo's daughter. He prospered in the 1980s and is now running an import-export business. His daughter, whom he has called Conchita out of respect for the Spaniards, is a potential love interest.

Although the working title

of *Eldorado* was *Little England*, the producers have so far underestimated the xenophobia of the British public. There should be a hefty cast of Spaniards but with nothing foreign about them: they display English attitudes and speak perfect English.

The mayor of Eldorado is Manuel, who left Fawley Towers to pursue a career in politics. He has a passionate interest in animals, and his continual attempts to persuade the tax-paying population of Eldorado to support Antonia's sanctuary is a source of some local conflict.

Angie enhances the continental flavour of the bar by employing the Spanish guitar player Albuerne, a would-be Romeo with a gold medallion

and a devout wife. He came third in the 1967 Eurovision Song Contest with "Eldorado", a hymn to his native town, sung to the tune of "Desperado" by The Eagles, which is the theme tune of the series.

Once the characters are established, there will be opportunities for high drama of Greek proportions. A vehicle for tragedy is the mild-mannered devoted simpson, a local lad who helps Angie behind the bar. Sergio, who likes to be called George, is a slave to Denis Tanner's daughter, Conchita, and, like his English counterpart, Lofty, from *EastEnders*, his devotion lends poignancy to her disastrous affairs.

To make it accessible, *Eldorado* needs a stronger relationship between the exiled community and the home country. The shadowy past of the Costa del Crime characters occasionally catches up with them, and figures from other people's past are constantly intruding, either on holiday or on the run. Dirty Den might show up, and any character from *Auf Wiedersehen Pet*, a Euro MP or a war criminal. Celebrities make occasional appearances.

The local football team tries to buy Gary Lineker. Jim Davidson is invited to entertain at a celebration with the criminal contingent. Frank Bough flies out to make a holiday timeshare video.

The absentees, some with unsavoury histories, are bound together in this foreign and yet strangely familiar place by a common theme: escape.

This is the expensive solution. The cheaper solution is to put the entire cast of *Eldorado* on a coach and set them up in Bridlington.

CLARE LONGRIGG

Too much too young

Seventeen tequila slammers would leave any drinker dazed. After downing hers, 16-year-old Georgina Meinerzhagen was incapable of speech. Helped home to her flat in Oxford she collapsed on the floor, unable to reach her bed. Later, when she woke in the small hours and leaned out of the window for some fresh air, she fell 26 feet into the street, smashing her head on a discarded wash basin.

At the inquest into her death last week, Daniel Meinerzhagen, her father, condemned the "cheap promotion" that was the occasion for the binge that led to Ms Meinerzhagen's death.

Promotions, common in bars popular with students and the young, involve offering a brand of drink at a special price, backed up with free T-shirts and baseball caps. The aim is to get people into pubs and encourage new drinkers to acquire different tastes. On the day of Ms Meinerzhagen's final party last February, it was the Mexican spirit tequila on offer at 50 pence a shot — half the normal price — that drew her crowd into a wine bar for a birthday celebration.

Often the special prices are only available in the early evening, during a happy hour. They provide an incentive to have two or three drinks quickly, where normally a drinker would have only one. But the tendency then is to carry on drinking. The offers get people into pubs earlier and persuade them to keep drinking longer.

Young people are targeted because they have a long drinking life ahead of them. But they are also already the heaviest drinkers. Four out of

Cut price alcohol is a danger to the inexperienced, says Jeremy Laurance

ten 18-to-24 year-olds drink more than the "safe" limits (21 units a week for men and 14 units for women), a higher proportion than any other age group.

This is mostly social rather than binge drinking. Young people are the most socially active segment of the community and much social life, especially in colleges and universities, revolves around pubs, clubs and bars.

Nonetheless, the proportion of young drinkers consuming more than the safe limit was the same in 1990 as in 1986. Even Alcohol Concern, the pressure group, admits that, although there are no grounds for complacency, there is "little justification for a moral panic about young people's deteriorating standards".

"Young people drink a lot. To say it is terrible is hypocritical," says Alex Paton, reader in alcohol problems at Warneford Hospital, Oxford and editor of the ABC of Alcohol, published by the British Medical Journal. "What I don't like is the way institutions manipulate them into drinking as much as they can until they kill themselves. A vodka company ran a competition in which the prize was as much free vodka as you could drink in a term. I thought that was disgraceful."

The best advice for fledgling drinkers is to learn how alcohol affects the body so that drinking can be controlled accordingly. The main dangers, for the young, are less the physical effects of alcohol on the liver and other organs — which are long-term — than

the risks of driving while drunk or getting into trouble with the police. According to Dr Paton, most will moderate their drinking by their mid-twenties, under pressure from the responsibilities of work and family. "I think the risks are vastly over-played," he says. "But if you continue heavy drinking after your mid-twenties then you are asking for trouble."

Young people have experimented with new modes of administration. Snorting Pernod — said to give a quicker and better high than cocaine — and injecting vodka direct into a vein are said to be popular among some drug-taking groups. Such methods produce high blood alcohol concentrations instantly.

Once absorbed, alcohol is distributed throughout the body. But its concentration depends on the blood volume. Drink for drink, smaller people with a lower blood volume will have a higher blood alcohol level and so become more intoxicated than larger people.

Young people have to learn

to cope with the effects of intoxication. Similarly the liver learns to metabolise it. Drinking stimulates the production of enzymes in the liver which speed its metabolism. The liver is the most vulnerable organ because it has the heavy task of removing alcohol from the blood. Even when trained, it can do this only slowly, at a rate of about 15mg an hour (slightly less than half a pint of beer or just under a glass of wine), which is why, after a heavy night, drinkers may wake up next morning still under the influence.

But it appears the liver can process only 80g of alcohol in a man and 40g in a woman in any 24-hour period. This is roughly equivalent to four pints of beer, just over a bottle of wine or a third of a bottle of spirits for a man — and half as much for a woman.

The rise in women's drinking (especially among the young), is the most worrying trend, because they are more vulnerable to the ill-effects of alcohol. Women in Britain are already very nearly as likely as men to die of cirrhosis of the liver, despite drinking only a third as much. Among men it takes five to ten years of heavy drinking to produce permanent liver damage, but among women it may take only two or three.



Oiling the social wheels: but special promotions aimed at encouraging young people to drink are causing concern

Bringing back the blues

The better the holiday, the worse the return to work can seem

Even if you've managed to get through the summer holidays without catching some nasty bug abroad or feeling depressed because you couldn't afford to leave Britain, the biggest danger season is now, when you are supposed to be safely back at work with the old order re-established.

Does everything seem suddenly depressing? Are you stuck with a chronic cold, in a job you never realised was such a dead-end, feeling disillusioned and disorientated and wondering where the golden promise of summer has gone? Experts in stress and psychosomatic illnesses would say that you are probably suffering from post-holiday blues syndrome.

"The time right after a holiday can be very depressing and sobering — which is why there are twin peaks of depression after Christmas and after the summer holidays," says David Zigmond, a London specialist in psychosomatic complaints. "The emphasis during both these times is on people having to be happy and make contact," says Hugh Jenkins, director of the Institute of Family Therapy.

"Those pressures can result in all sorts of problems. If you look at the number of men who die within six to eight months of retiring, you will understand that holidays are part of the same process. The moment you stop, you actually become much more vulnerable — both physiologically and psychologically."

"There is no special syndrome, but people may come down with cold sores, sore throats, backache — whatever they are prone to," Dr Zigmond says.

Many people fear the loss of a job when they're "out of sight, out of mind", and with some justification, says David Lewis, a research psychologist who founded "Stress Watch". "We did a survey for American Express which showed that 25 per cent of people were afraid of being made redundant after a holiday."

"Simply coming back from a very warm climate with lots of sunshine to a dull, cool climate can make you depressed," Dr Lewis says. "But there are other factors too. When you're on holiday you often do your health no good with too much drink and sunshine, jelling, late nights and maybe more exercise than you're accustomed to. Many people are coming back from exotic holidays with all sorts of nasty things from legionnaire's disease to malaria."

"Another reason is that on

holiday families tend to be thrown together more closely than they normally are. Suddenly you're actually forced to talk to each other. There are no defences."

That, he suggests, is why "the period after the summer holidays ranks second only to the period after Christmas as the busiest for the divorce lawyers."

Sometimes, says Mr Jenkins — himself a family therapist who has had to pick up the pieces of many a holiday gone awry — "it's only when people stop that they have time to see what's really going on and what they actually have to face, and they come back despairing."

Dr Zigmond says: "When people have a holiday which is very different from their day-

to-day lives, they are more likely to become depressed, whereas if their holiday is pretty near home and they continue some of their ordinary activities with just a slight variation, they're not confronted with such a hunch back to reality."

So what can we do to minimise the likelihood of post-holiday blues?

"Consider your re-entry period," Dr Lewis advises. "Give yourself a day or two to adjust at home before you have to plunge back into work. Employers should realise that employees need a day or two to adjust and not immediately dump everything on them."

"If you suddenly feel you loathe your work and can't stop daydreaming about your next holiday, use that as a springboard to action: go to an evening class, study a language. Don't just try to escape from the real world. You can't link your whole life to that fortnight when you're going to be away."

Dr Zigmond thinks employers should look at the level of post-holiday absenteeism and sickness within their organisations. "If it is significantly high it means something should be done about the company, to find out why returning to it is so depressing," he says.

"Begin to listen to your own body rhythms," Mr Jenkins suggests. "You should be able to take your own psychological temperature as well as your physiological one, and to work out a holiday pattern that suits you. I've been a manager in the health service and I know that people's sickness patterns are an indication of how things are going in their work and personal lives, and all employers should be aware of that."

VICTORIA MCKEE

FIGHTING BACK WITH THE IMPERIAL CANCER RESEARCH FUND

"And I thought the only place my name would appear was in the obituaries."

Alan Thompson had bowel cancer. His treatment, administered by the Imperial Cancer Research Fund, involved the removal of a twelve inch section of his bowel. Incredibly he was soon back at work.

Mind you, he left again shortly afterwards to set up a company in which he is a senior partner.

Still, it can't be denied that bowel cancer is a killer if it's not caught early.

Every single year it claims nearly 20,000 lives, so research into its causes is obviously of critical importance.

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New concept brought to a life's work

The accepted wisdom that every father worth his moistened sponge should be there in the delivery room, bravely holding his wife's hand and counting her through contractions, is now in question — and by those who once fought most fiercely for the rights of men to be present at their child's birth.

"We have fallen into the trap of polarisation. When the pendulum swings we react by insisting that everybody should follow the new fashion," says Lesley Page, one of the most radical midwives in Britain and now six months into her new position as Professor of Midwifery at Queen Charlotte's College, London. What she teaches today will influence not only the next generation of midwives but ultimately the way mothers give birth in this country.

"Each family needs individual attention — and for some families it's wrong for the father to be present at delivery. A midwife needs to develop sophisticated counselling skills that will enable her instinctively to pick up parents' reservations.

"If she asks the father 'does it feel alright for you to be with your wife?' Then it gives him permission to not be there. If a mother has a traumatic delivery it can be very difficult for a man to watch."

Professor Page learnt the importance of listening to individual parents through her own extraordinarily graphic experience. She helped thousands of mothers bring their babies into the world while coming to terms with the fact that she could have no children of her own — and then, miraculously, at the age of 45 she discovered she was pregnant.

"I now specifically teach midwives to avoid giving advice to mothers unless they have very good reason to do so," she says. "I used to tell women to rest during pregnancy. But I didn't rest at all and it was perfectly alright. Every now and then I would think I'll sit with my feet up but I'm not that sort of person. Pregnancy is something which should be enjoyed. It's not an illness, and unless there are medical indications otherwise, midwives should encourage mothers — and fathers — to find their own lifestyle."

At the time of her conception two years ago she was director of midwifery for John Radcliffe maternity services in Oxford and fighting the medical establishment to set up Britain's first midwife

Not until the age of 45 was Lesley Page, a professor of midwifery, able to talk about childbirth from personal experience. Anne Woodham reports

team practice in Kidlington.

Her two adopted children were 18 and 16, and she and her husband, technical adviser Mark Starr, were anticipating life on their own.

Her first reaction was disbelief. "I would have thought my chances of conceiving after suffering endometriosis for so long were practically nil." Morning sickness was so severe that she was hospitalised. "I told this baby, 'don't leave us, we really want you,'" she recalls. "By 16 weeks I felt absolutely blooming and continued working until three weeks before the birth."

The number of women who finally become pregnant after adopting children is legion and still without explanation. "Fertility is such a complex phenomenon," Professor Page says. "I had resolved my feelings about desperately wanting a baby, and far from being relaxed at the time of conception, I was in the most stressful period of work, horribly busy and absolutely exhausted."

The only change to her routine, she says, was a daily half teaspoon of Feverfew for migraine headaches. "I remember reading that it might have an effect on prostaglandin synthesis and wondering if I could get pregnant, and six months later I did. I still keep thinking I must ask the fertility experts about it."

Meanwhile the John Radcliffe Hospital prepared for this special baby. Lesley Page handpicked her team of midwives and birth expert Sheila Kitzinger — whose grandson Sam she had delivered — donated a waterbirth pool. But the plumbiest were still installing it when she went into labour.

Helping other mothers through pregnancy and labour had never prepared her for the intensity of the experience. "The heartburn, the heaviness of carrying the baby, and

the pain of the contractions were far worse than I'd imagined," she says. "The pain was all-consuming. I remember thinking I must be only 2cm dilated and I'm going to ask for an epidural and I'll never live it down."

Events moved too quickly for that. Anxious about her age and status, her obstetrician threatened a caesarean delivery if labour went beyond three hours, but the arrival of David Edwin Page Starr, in the presence of his father, beat the deadline.

Two years later, she can evaluate the insights gained. "I feel I've experienced something in common with other women, and yet I look at David, who's come to us so late in my life, and he's unique."

And, as if she needed any convincing, she realised how truly supportive midwives can be. "They were all young women and yet their skills and their sensitivity were absolutely wonderful."

"This is midwifery as it should be practised, an equal partnership between mother and midwife. The word itself, Professor Page points out, comes from Old English, meaning "one who is with the mother."

Six months ago (in March) she took up her professorship, a new chair created by Thames Valley University (formerly the Polytechnic of West London). Her avowed agenda is to educate and promote midwives as professionals, independent of but in liaison with doctors, aiming to help women remain in control of their care.

She describes the government's recent health committee report on maternity services, which calls for "a life-enhancing start to family life," as "incredible," both for its human wisdom, rare in a government document, and for the (often painful) debate it has engendered in the maternity professions. The

vast majority of mothers, it reveals, are dissatisfied with hospital registration. They want greater choice in how and where their babies are born, and the continuing support of a midwife whom they know and trust.

Over the last three decades, she says, midwives have allowed themselves to become subservient to doctors. One response has been a female chauvinism that decried medical science and exalted the practical skills of midwifery. "But we need academic rigour in our training and an understanding of the biological sciences — as well as psychology, sociology and anthropology," she insists.

She was instrumental in setting up the four-year direct entry honours degree in midwifery at Oxford Polytechnic, and has ambitions for a PhD course at Queen Charlotte's College. Research projects under discussion with psychologists at Thames Valley University include the memory of pain in childbirth. Why do some women, like Professor Page, forget the sensation immediately, recalling it only on an intellectual level, while others find it unforgettablely traumatic?

For such a gently spoken and approachable woman, she is remarkably tough. "Earlier this year I did an outdoors leadership course on which all the others were men. At the beginning they saw me as a very maternal figure, and at the end they knew why I'd been successful in my career."

"You go into nursing because you're a caring person," she adds, "and then see that you can't do as much as you ought to be able to do. If I think something is good I'll push for it, but I don't always anticipate the political backlash. When you introduce team midwifery you're changing power relationships."

It is the unquantifiable, so-called "alternative" elements — kindness, touch, massage, reassurance — that are basic to midwifery. "We're with people in a more intimate way than any surgeon," Professor Page says, "and we have a down-to-earth understanding of a woman and her life. All midwives talk about holistic care — the integration of mind and body that is particularly important in childbirth."

"As I get older I see how important strong midwifery will be to society. If a woman is to be an effective parent she must have confidence in herself, she must feel in control of the birth of her own baby."

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Lesley Page with David: during labour she was on the verge of losing face and asking for an epidural

"As I get older I see how important strong midwifery will be to society"

Tumours on the brain

JULIA SOMERVILLE'S fans are rightly impressed that she continued reading the news even after she knew that she had an intracranial tumour, which had been pressing on the optic nerve. Although pre-operative investigations may have suggested that it was benign, only the pathologist looking at the tumour after it had been removed could actually confirm this.

The usual tumours to press on the optic nerve is a pituitary adenoma although the most common benign intracranial tumour is the meningioma, a growth arising on the covering of the brain. Meningiomas account for nearly 20 per cent of all intracranial tumours, they usually strike between the ages of 40 and 60 and women are affected more often than men. Although the tumour is widely regarded as being benign, the occasional meningioma is found by the pathologists to be malignant, and even benign meningiomas can be difficult to remove in their entirety.

Intracranial tumours are usually detected because the patient either suddenly



MEDICAL BRIEFING
Dr Thomas Stuttaford

develops epilepsy, has obvious small changes in the nervous system, or suffers from raised intracranial pressure.

The changes in the nervous system may vary from slight trouble with vision, a localised muscular weakness, to an obvious change in character. Personality changes are a particularly common presentation in meningiomas, which often press on the frontal lobes. Change is the all-important signal that shows something is amiss; if a choleric colored shorts, nobody is concerned, but if a saintly priest becomes irritable and starts swearing like a trooper, it is time to see the doctor.

Although meningiomas often present

with character change, most cerebral tumours are first noticed because of a rise in intracranial pressure. As the growth increases inside, there is inadequate room within the skull for both brain and tumour; when the brain becomes overcrowded, symptoms of vomiting, headaches, lethargy and drowsiness follow.

Patients can be reassured: headaches are very common, nearly everybody has one from time to time, and intracranial tumours comparatively rare; in a city the size of Norwich, for instance, with a population of approximately 200,000, doctors should expect to find about ten cerebral tumours a year.

Characteristically, but not inevitably, the headache caused by a cerebral tumour is regular, present when the patient wakes, or may even wake the patient, and as it grows the pain lasts longer each day. The pain is made worse by coughing, sneezing, blowing the nose or coughing. Close questioning will enable doctors to reassure the overwhelming majority of patients, but if there is any doubt, modern scanning can settle the question.

No need to remember to keep taking the pill

BREWERS, it is widely believed, keep up the price of low alcohol beer lest it lose its cachet by being considered irredeemably down-market. Depot-Provera, the long-acting injectable contraceptive, suffered just this fate. It became thought of as the ideal contraceptive for the feckless and the forgetful; and it was indeed suitable for those whose memory or lifestyle made it difficult to take a daily pill. But by the same criterion, it should be equally useful to the jet-setting merchant banker or barrister on circuit, and as appropriate in Sloane Street as in the local squat. Even women who remain at home find it hard to remember the pill; ten per cent of pill takers forget to take it at least once a week.

Depot-Provera, and the equally effective new injectable

contraceptive, Noristerat, are progestogen-only contraceptives. The injections are slightly more effective than the pill as a contraceptive, and considerably more effective than the IUD, diaphragm or condom. It can be prescribed for those who are older or who smoke, as it doesn't encourage blood-clotting. The injections reduce the incidence of cancer of the ovary and body of the uterus, and the scare about causing lumps in breasts has now been shown to be totally irrelevant to the human breast. The injectable contraceptive may cause irregular bleeding, usually spotting but occasionally heavier bleeding; in the first few months and later, periods may cease. But within two years of the last injection, 95 per cent of those who have wanted to become pregnant have done so.

having major orthopaedic surgery, show evidence of a deep vein thrombosis in the legs.

A new drug, Clethane, a low-molecular-weight heparin, is given only once a day, and is an anti-coagulation drug, and more effective. Surgeons will soon need to explain to patients why they have been considered unsuitable for such anti-coagulants.

In a safer vein

small clots which are broken off from a large thrombus (clot) in the leg vein, has still not been learnt.

Controlled trials have shown that death from thrombo-embolism in patients undergoing major surgery could be reduced by 50 per cent if anti-coagulant therapy

was routinely used. At the Royal Hallamshire Hospital in Sheffield, for instance, it has been calculated that one per cent of all patients admitted for major surgery suffer from thrombo-embolism. Twenty five per cent of patients over 40 undergoing major surgery have been considered unsuitable for such anti-coagulants.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

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THE EXHIBITION • EARLS COURT • 15-18 SEPTEMBER

Facts of life in black and white

Clive Davis previews a touring exhibition celebrating the black American experience and meets Gordon Parks, the veteran novelist, film-maker and magazine photographer

Now a respected member of America's cultural elite, the photographer and author Gordon Parks once, as a very young man, earned a living as a pianist in a brothel. After touring with a jazz band during the Great Depression, he eventually found work as a steward on the railways, and became interested in photography after leaving through a magazine left behind by a passenger.

Parks, who bought his first camera from a pawnbroker, went on to join *Life* magazine, and was responsible for some of the finest photo-journalism of the Civil Rights era. With his 80th birthday a few weeks away he has provided the introduction to a new collection of work by black American photographers, *Songs of My People*. Sub-titled "African-Americans - A Self-Portrait", the pictures form a panorama of contemporary life, from the statutory views of grizzled farm workers in the Deep South to snapshots of striving young "wannabe" executives.

The work of around 50 photographers (including several Pulitzer Prize winners) from the summer of 1990 is featured in a book (published by Little Brown) and an exhibition - co-sponsored by the Smithsonian Institution - touring more than 30 American and European cities. The show opens in London today and moves on to the Impressions Gallery, York from November 7.

The project's organisers - Eric Easter, Michael Cheers and Dudley Brooks - allowed the contributors a fair degree of freedom: the aim was to create a "jazz composition" which would give the artists room to follow their own instincts. So, just as in a musician's solo, there are occasions when inspiration takes flight and

others when - as in the section devoted to entertainers - the photographers fall back on well-worn newspaper techniques.

One or two shots would probably not get past the picture desk of a local paper: the group portrait of a "multi-arts" theatre ensemble which performs "contemporary pieces about Afrocentric traditions and lifestyles" is every bit as dull as its caption. Nevertheless the failures of imagination are easily outweighed by the genuinely memorable images.

In any case - like the celebrated collection "12 Million Black

"The show fulfils a social function rather than giving a frisson to gallery aesthetes"

Voices", published half a century ago - "Songs of My People" was clearly created to fulfil a social function rather than supply a frisson to gallery aesthetes. Though they present their share of depressing vistas of urban and rural poverty, the contributors are eager to underline the achievements of the black middle class. As Parks puts it in his introduction: "The heart, not the eye, seems to have determined the contents of their photographs. What their eyes saw was one thing; what their hearts perceive was yet another."

Born into an impoverished farming family in Kansas - he was the youngest of 15 children - Parks

lives in Manhattan in an elegantly furnished apartment in the exclusive United Nations Plaza complex. He is a courtly, old-world figure whose extravagant white moustache would not look out of place on a Spitfire squadron-leader.

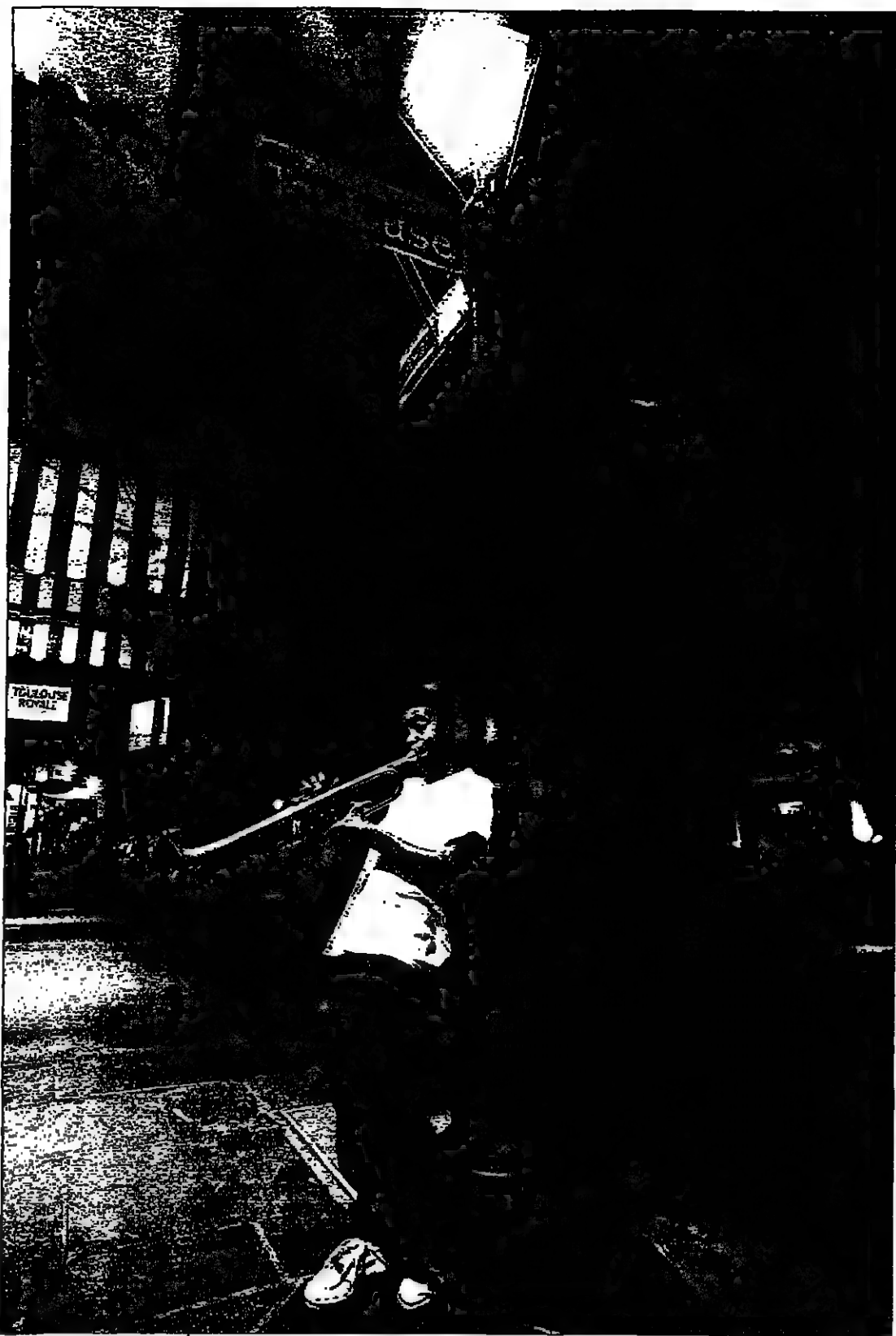
He spent two decades at *Life*, where his best work combined political commitment with visual flair. Among his assignments were studies of the Black Muslim organisation and stum children of Brazil, as well as memorable portraits of Muhammad Ali.

And there was his phase, starting in the late Sixties, as a film director. His first feature was *The Learning Tree*, based on his autobiographical novel. Then came *Shafi*, the thriller which, with the help of Isaac Hayes's atmospheric music, set off a wave of big-budget films with black actors in leading roles.

Parks has a tendency to become personally involved with his photographic subjects. After taking pictures of an impoverished Harlem family, for example, he eventually bought them a new home in Queens. Events, he says, took an unhappy turn: the mother recently died of cancer and two of the daughters have succumbed to AIDS. There is, however, hope for the youngest son, now in his early twenties, who has ambitions to compose music. Parks has bought him a recording machine.

Meanwhile, Parks has been busy on a photographic project inspired by the paintings of Turner. He has also completed a 600-page novel about the artist. Negotiations are under way to bring an exhibition of Parks's pictures to the Photographers Gallery in London next year.

● *Songs of My People* is at the Festival Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 8800) from today until October 25. Open daily, admission free.



"Songs of My People": C.W. Griffin's study of Ezell Quinn Jr. in New Orleans

GALLERIES

● **INVENTION THROUGH REASON - THE HOPES OF MANKIND. THE DREAMS OF YOUTH:** It is possible that the lengthy tide of this show, derived from FIAR's international painting competition, reflects the aspirations of the company itself, which specialises in high-technology engineering systems. Catch a similar company in Britain celebrating its 50th anniversary by sponsoring a prize for (as it turns out) Minimal and Conceptual Art. Overall winner among the 60 artists under the age of 30 invited is the Scot Callum Innes, whose mysteriously minimal painting evokes organic processes of staining and eroding. Other winners are three Italians, one American, and one Briton: Andrew Bick.

Accademia Italiana. 24 Rutland Gate, SW7 (071-225 3474) Tues-Sat 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 8pm), Sun 2.30pm, until September 20. Admission £3, concessions £1.50.

● **IN THE ROUND/ DESIGNS ON POSTERITY:** The contemporary medal is a much collected but critically neglected art-form. The Federation Internationale de la Médaille, founded in 1937, holds biennial exhibitions, and this year's, the first to be held in Britain, brings together more than 1,100 medals, designed by 600 artists. There is also a Salon des Refusés and a show of medals issued by the British Art Medal Society, now ten years old, and there are three unissued, previously unexhibited medals by Henry Moore for the 900th anniversary of Chichester Cathedral in 1975. "Designs on Posterity" is a show of drawings for medals, from Dürer up to date, drawn mostly from the BM's own collections but with important loans.

British Museum, Great Russell Street, WC1 (071-323 8525) Mon-Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 2.30-6pm, until October 25.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR

THEATRE PREVIEW

Newly revealed as a radical

Stephen Daldry, who is directing *An Inspector Calls*, talks to Peter Lewis about J.B. Priestley

When Stephen Daldry was invited to direct a play for the National Theatre before taking up his new post running the Royal Court, he astonished his hosts by choosing to do *An Inspector Calls*. This old warhorse - frequently performed, but nearly always by amateur companies - hardly sounded like a young director's opportunity to break with convention. Is it capable of yielding new insights? Is J.B. Priestley relevant?

There is periodic talk of a Priestley revival but, apart from the National's birthday tributes in his lifetime and a production of *Time and the Conways*, that has not materialised. Daldry, an unexpected fan from a much younger generation (he is 31) thinks Priestley has been misjudged and undervalued. He sees him as "a radical playwright who was trying to break the mould and re-invent theatre for moral purposes". The reputation Daldry won at the Gate Theatre in Nottingham Hill was for unearthing unsuspected classics. *An Inspector Calls*, he believes, is "perhaps more of a classic than anyone realised".

To see it as part of the 1930s thriller genre, and to play it in a solid box set, is to misread the play. "Some people perceive Priestley as a realist or as a jovial purveyor of Yorkshire comedy like *When We Were Married*. People don't realise how radical he was. Hare and Brenton are part of the same radical tradition which he belonged to along with Auden and Isherwood - although, unlike them, he was working in commercial theatre."

Priestley himself wrote that "only an idiot would consider me a naturalistic dramatist". He declared on another occasion: "All my plays are prin-



J.B. Priestley: he tried "to break the mould and re-invent theatre for moral purposes"

pally fantasies. There isn't one of them in which the impossible doesn't happen." All of which should prepare audiences for surprise when the curtain rises at the Lyttelton tonight. Daldry and his designer, Ian MacNeil, have taken the play clean out of the drawing room to show the impossible happening in a landscape of the imagination.

The play is set in 1912, when the Birtings of Brumley are doing very nicely, the pound is worth a pound, and the Titanic "absolutely unsinkable", sails next week. But it was written early in 1945 and, had there been a theatre available, might have been staged in time for that year's sensational general election. It only reached London in 1946, to far less critical enthusiasm than it had earned in Moscow and Germany.

In 1945 Priestley trailed some of the clouds of glory from his war-time postscripts to the nine o'clock news. His grumpy growl, as British as plum puddings, had turned him into an institution. In the election he himself stood as an

Independent and lost.

"We have located the production in 1945 because that was the pivotal point in British domestic history. A shift in consensus took place, in which Priestley was very involved," says Daldry. "The optimism and conviction of the play is that of 1945, looking back in anger at the moral basis of Edwardian society and rejecting it. The play asked: were we really going back to that? A huge war had not been fought to put the clock back to that kind of society."

The next major shift in consensus, in 1979, brought in the Thatcher years, during which much of what remained of the vision of 1945 was finally dismantled. "There is a new generation that has no inkling of that romantic vision of creating a better society. They have been told that we live for ourselves and are not responsible for each other. I wanted to do a play that challenges that." He finds parallels with 1980s philosophy in the pre-Titanic views of Birling on a man's

duty to look after himself and not everybody else - "community and all that nonsense". "Nowadays," says Daldry, "when political drama seems to lack vision for humanity, it seemed important to hear a powerful voice from 1945 saying they also had a choice between the individual and society. I think Priestley would be outraged now to see people living on the streets."

Another strand in Priestley's stage radicalism that appeals to Daldry is his investigation of alternative reality. *An Inspector Calls* is not counted as one of the "Time" plays. "But at some point at that dinner party, time stops. They are allowed a glimpse of the future and some of the family see a chance to break out of the cycle of their lives. You can see it as a dream play in which the characters are taken out of their little Edwardian dolls' house into a wasteland where they are confronted by their innermost fears."

● *An Inspector Calls* opens tonight at the Lyttelton, National Theatre, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252)

TELEVISION REVIEW

Gone for broke

Having tired of the cardboard cities of the dispossessed, radical television producers have latched on to the repossessed. After mockery for the vulgar habits of the jumped-up entrepreneurs of the Lawson boom, the Lamont era has seen the emergence of a new kind of documentary: the recessionary.

The series *Present Imperfect* is a good example. Clive Busby and Nick Clark, the heroes of *Broke* (BBC 2, last night), were partners in a fitted-kitchen business whose fortunes have declined to the point at which bankruptcy and manual jobs seem preferable to their debtor's nightmare. Both would have been patronised by the media as "Essex Men" in the years when they were doing well. The recessionary has done away with the intrusive editorial voice so popular in the Eight-

ies. Instead, Clive and Nick were on their own, addressing a disembodied camera at quarterly intervals during their downward spiral.

Poignant though the loyalty of their long-suffering wives was, and resonant though their disillusionment with the enterprise culture still is, the impression was not that the market had let them down but that they had been punished for their gullibility. Once the kitchen business ran into trouble, Clive and Nick started selling burglar alarms - another risky item in a recession - and Nick ended up flogging slimmers' chocolates, apparently under the impres-

sion that they were a new idea. Both men had a legitimate bone to pick with a government which has cold-bloodedly persisted with policies that are hurting its own supporters more than anybody else. Clive described himself as an ex-Conservative, though the more resilient Nick, who held out against bankruptcy for longer, was unwilling to abandon his convictions. The moral which this recessionary hoped to draw was that Britain had abandoned the Tory party along with the Eighties. But that is not what happened on April 9.

What added insult to injury for these men and their families was the sense of being kept in their place. "Ten years ago, when I was 30, I told myself that by the time I was 40 I would not be crawling around in lofts," said Nick. "Here I am, still crawling around in lofts." The real damage the recession has done is not material, but psychological: "We are beaten," said Clive's unflappable wife.

It is this shrinking of horizons, rather than breaking faith with our European partners, which should be keeping John Major awake at night. Where, after all, did Major himself come from? The family of a small businessman who went bust. John's ambitions were not crushed by his father's failure. The Clives and Nicks of the next generation may not be so lucky.

DANIEL JOHNSON

OPERA REVIEW

Coolly commanding

Carmen
Sadler's Wells

British Youth Opera is a company that bridges the gap for young singers between college and the chance of work with the national companies. Their freshness and honesty has won appreciative audiences and distinguished support from within the profession.

The only doubts about their *Carmen* were the decision to perform it in French, which ranges from the good (Carmen, Micaëla, and the children's chorus) to the positively Churchillian (most of the rest) - and the use of the four preludes for meaningless vignettes of Don José silently emoting in his prison cell. Mérimée's novella may be about José, but Bizet's opera is about Carmen.

Otherwise Patrick Libby's production, in Vicki Mortimer's clever permanent set, was a model of good sense, and BYO musical director Timothy Dean showed that he knows the secret of conducting *Carmen*: to get on with it and let "art" look after itself - it's all there in the notes.

The major achievement of the production was the way Dean and Libby helped Helen Lothian crack the secret of playing the title role: stillness

(no vampish hip-swinging), and humour, which is crucial to the character. Lothian was the witty, cool, calm pivot around which the drama revolved, utterly in command of her destiny right up to the denouement. Her mezzo is not large, but she sensibly refuses to force it, using chest tone sparingly and thus to double the effect. She phrases with taste and musicianship, and enunciates the text clearly and meaningfully: astonishing maturity and insight.

She had a worthy antagonist in the Micaëla of Diane Charlesworth: clear, beautiful, rounded tone, and anything but a milkop, emphasising that her intervention in the smugglers' scene is an act of selfless heroism.

The Chinese tenor Ya Lin Zhang, who has been gathering laurels at the Royal College, sang José. His tone is robust, Italianate rather than French in timbre and admirably free at the top. He will grow more confident on stage as his career develops, which it surely will.

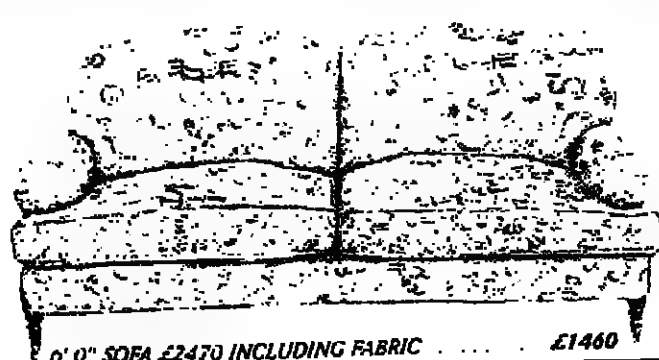


Helen Lothian as British Youth Opera's *Carmen*

Howard Croft did as well as any young singer could as Escamillo (he certainly looked the part), and there were promising contributions from Peter Mulloy (Dancalfo) and

Katerina Karneus (Mercedès). The chorus worked hard and effectively. An unpretentious, solidly enjoyable evening.

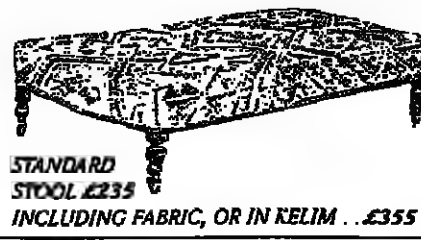
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AN INSPECTOR CALLS (Lancaster) Crampton probes the guilty secrets of a repressive family (Richard Pasco, Barbara Leigh-Hunt) in Paddy's drama. Stephen Dillane's first London production (see interview, page 3). National (Tynes) South Bank, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

SCHOOL FOR WIVES (Hemmings) returns to Edinburgh after the Festival with Neil Bartlett's new version of Moliere's play: sexual politics and philosophical sleight. Royal Lyceum, Girdling Street, Edinburgh (031-225 9697), opens tonight, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mat Sat, 3.15pm.

BBC PROMS 92 Tonight Andrew Davis conducts the BBC Symphony Orchestra and Chorus in Sir Michael Tippett's moving wartime oratorio, *A Child of Our Time*. Sarah Rees, Isabella Rappold, Anthony Rolfe-Johnson and William White make up the impressive line-up of soloists. Before the interval, veteran Russian pianist Tatiana Nikolayeva is the soloist in Bach's *Concerto in D minor*.

Last Night of the Proms Tomorrow Dame Kiri Te Kanawa does the honours in *Die Entführung*, but before the familiar variations on a triumphal theme at the end of the evening, there is plenty of real musical interest: as by Massenet, Korngold, Puccini and Catalani, Sir Peter Maxwell Davies's *An Orchestral Wedding* with Summe, and a performance of Shostakovich's Piano Concerto No 2, with again brings Tatiana Nikolayeva to the front platform.

DEATH AND THE MAIDENS (Anel) Dorfman's scoring psychological drama on the long for revenge. Penny Downie, Danny Webb and Hugh Ross make up the cast. National (Tynes) South Bank, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

FROM A JACK TO A KING (Wally) and a stylized version of Macbeth's climb to the top, set in the world of rock bands and packed with Sordani songs. Ambassadors, West Street, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

GRAND HOTEL (Muzak) baroque sugar, Berlin in the Twenties. Sentimental, American, entertaining. Dominion, Tottenham Court Road, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

HECUBA (Troy) women struggle from grief to revenge; engraving production of Euripides by new artist director Laurence Boswell. Prince, Prince Albert Road, 11 Pembroke Road, W11 0TJ, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

THE MADRAS HOUSE (Roger) Allam heads a strong cast in Granville Barker's play about a family in a London house, set in a London house. Lyric, Hammer Lane, King Street, W6 (081-741 2311), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mat Sat, 2.30pm, 10.15pm.

MURDER BY MISADVENTURE (Gerald) Harper and William Gaunt play crime writers who fall out and put their wits to the test in a murder mystery. Whitehall, Whitehall, SW1 0BT, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

PHILADELPHIA, HERE I COME! (Brian) Fretwell's affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his daughter's arrival in America. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, W1 0AG, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

NEW RELEASES

LES AMANTS DU PONT NEUF (Laurie) Les Carré's hymn to Paris and a young man's love for a young artist going blind. Tintin, Tintin, and a young man's love. Denis Lenoir, Paris, 1991. National (Tynes) South Bank, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

BOB ROBERTS (15) Lively spoof documentary about a night-walking singer's battle for a seat on the US Senate. Entertaining directorial debut by actor Tim Robbins. Gate 01-127 4041 National (Tynes) South Bank, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS (15) The *Discovery* (PG) Pin-up magazine (George) Conlon's directorial debut. World's Silly Awards: with a routine. Morley, Morley, 1991. National (Tynes) South Bank, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION (15) (Laurie) Western comedy in Pakistan with a cultural clash. Interlocking cultural clash by director Robert Altman. Liff, Liff, 1991. National (Tynes) South Bank, London, 6.15pm, 7.30pm, 9.15pm, 7pm, tomorrow, 2.15pm and 7.30pm.

ENTERTAINMENTS

ART GALLERIES

NEW GRAFTON GALLERY 49 Church Lane, London SW14 4JH. Tel: 01-874 8850. 10 September until 26 September.

FRED DUBERY 10 September until 26 September.

CINEMAS

CURSON MAYFAIR Curson St. 01-235 8855. 10 September until 26 September.

ROYAL OPERA HOUSE 1300, 1301, 1302, 1303, 1304, 1305, 1306, 1307, 1308, 1309, 1310, 1311, 1312, 1313, 1314, 1315, 1316, 1317, 1318, 1319, 1320, 1321, 1322, 1323, 1324, 1325, 1326, 1327, 1328, 1329, 1330, 1331, 1332, 1333, 1334, 1335, 1336, 1337, 1338, 1339, 1340, 1341, 1342, 1343, 1344, 1345, 1346, 1347, 1348, 1349, 1350, 1351, 1352, 1353, 1354, 1355, 1356, 1357, 1358, 1359, 1360, 1361, 1362, 1363, 1364, 1365, 1366, 1367, 1368, 1369, 1370, 1371, 1372, 1373, 1374, 1375, 1376, 1377, 1378, 1379, 1380, 1381, 1382, 1383, 1384, 1385, 1386, 1387, 1388, 1389, 1390, 1391, 1392, 1393, 1394, 1395, 1396, 1397, 1398, 1399, 1400, 1401, 1402, 1403, 1404, 1405, 1406, 1407, 1408, 1409, 1410, 1411, 1412, 1413, 1414, 1415, 1416, 1417, 1418, 1419, 1420, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425, 1426, 1427, 1428, 1429, 1430, 1431, 1432, 1433, 1434, 1435, 1436, 1437, 1438, 1439, 1440, 1441, 1442, 1443, 1444, 1445, 1446, 1447, 1448, 1449, 1450, 1451, 1452, 1453, 1454, 1455, 1456, 1457, 1458, 1459, 1460, 1461, 1462, 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HEALTH p4.5

Born to a
midwife who
never
expected him

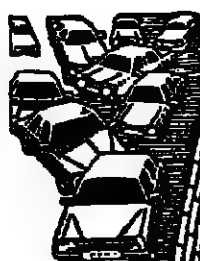


LIFE & TIMES

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11 1992

MOTORING p7

Why Ford
is relaunching
its model
bestseller



Sue Townsend, the grandmother who made a fortune from capturing the mind of the teenager, is now living out a fantasy life for the Windsors

A Times leader calls for the dismantling of the monarchy, and a week later it comes to pass. A Republican government wins the election in April 1992, and overnight the royal family is stripped of its regal underpinnings and dispatched by the new prime minister, Jack Barker, to live on a hellhole council estate in the Midlands.

I can think of no author who could imagine this outrage so graphically, demolish the institution so wittily and yet leave the family with its human dignity intact, as Sue Townsend has. She contrives to be both acute and affectionate. "No," she says. "But all you have to do to make the monarchy look redundant is to take them away from it, and show them as human beings. And once they are only human beings, how can you be harsh and cruel?"

Ten years ago this week, her *Secret Diary of Adrian Mole, Aged 13½*, was read out on Radio 4. It became the most bought and — unlike some bestsellers — most read book of the 1980s. *The Queen and I* (published next Monday by Methuen) will soon be read out in the same Radio 4 slot by Miriam Margolyes, so listeners and readers will discover how the royals adapt when thrust into the bleak and uncomfortable reality of the modern urban world.

The Queen has only ever seen council estates complete with red carpets, tongue-tied civic dignitaries, and a two-year-old in a Mothercare frock presenting a posy. Suddenly she and her family have to live cheek by jowl with oilies, people with tattoos and white stilettos and videos knocked off the backs of lorries.

"It stank. Somebody in the Close was burning car tyres... Not one house on the Close had its full complement of windows. Fences were broken, or gone. Gardens were full of rubbish, black plastic bags had been split by marauding dogs, televisions flickered and blared. A police car drove into the Close and stopped. A policeman pulled a youth off the pavement, threw him into the back of the car and sped away... A woman in white stilettos ran down the road after a boy tottering, naked apart from his vest. She yanked the child by his fat little arm back into the house."

In fact, the Queen copes splendidly. Grim-faced, she listens to Mr Barker's "republican rubbish" and says: "So you will be scratching around for a new figurehead, a president of some kind, will you?" in her clear, crystal tones, snapping her handbag shut philosophically. Then she ties on her headscarf, straightens her back and gets on with things. She queues for her giro cheque at the social security. She helps her neighbour deliver a baby out in the sofa in the litter-strewn living room. She begs bones from the butcher for 30p for her corgei.

The Queen Mother, shown her pensioner's bungalow, never loses her comely smile: "It's darling! It could be a kennel for a large dog. I love it," she pealed. "The Prince of

Wales takes to wearing a pony tail and a shell suit and leaps into community action. "For him, it's Utopia," Ms Townsend says. "He's much happier. I know, from watching him very carefully, his body, how he holds his head, I know this man does not want to be the king. Who would?"

The Princess Royal, too, has inner resources: she sets about doing DIY, plumbing in her own washing-machine, and keeps a horse in her back garden. The Princess of Wales muddles through, a bit fearfully, while Will and Harry's spelling and grammar atrophy at the local primary school. But the Duke of Edinburgh can't stand it — bloody this and bloody that — and nor can Princess Margaret: she keeps saying how ghastly and unspeakably vile everything is and tries to escape to Bobo Crichton-Hutchinson's country house, until her sister crisply reminds her that they are under curfew. Margaret must keep her chin up: what would Crawfie say? "She hated me," Margaret says. "You were a hateful little girl, that's why," the Queen replies. "Bossy, arrogant and sly. Crawfie said you'd make a mess of your life — and you have."

Prince Edward is out of it, in New Zealand with a touring musical called *Sheepie*, while the Duke of York is in his submarine under the Polar icecap. Fergie, alas, had to be excised from the book at the last minute. "She really took to estate life," Ms Townsend says. "She was a good-time girl, went to the youth club disco, made a lot of friends very quickly — she was OK."

Two years ago Ms Townsend started on a different book with the same title. She was going to interplay her own biography and the Queen's, a study in contrasts. It was a nice idea, but it did not work. One restless, wakeful night, she realised that a better plot would be just to take royalty from the royals. She had no inkling, then, of the scandals that would erupt, but has no relish for the recent tabloid tatting. "I hate the fact that telephoto lenses were used. I hate the fact that a private telephone conversation was reproduced." And she feels "a bit nervous" about what Kitty Kelley might bring out about the Duke of Edinburgh.

But Ms Townsend is a woman of mettle, or she could not have allowed the Queen Mother to die the Queen Mother to die on page 188, at which even the most hardened anti-monarchist must feel a frisson of dismay. "She was a nice woman, spilt, but nice," a neighbour remarks. Laid out in her favourite blue gown, she still wears her sweet smile. The local evening paper notes her death much as *The Independent* might, in a single paragraph: "The former Queen Mother, who in 1967 opened the Casualty Department

at Middleton Royal Hospital, has died in Hellebore Close, the Flowers Estate. She was 92."

Of course it is preposterous. It is preposterous that anyone has to live on these squalid estates, anyway. How can the Queen's Aubusson rugs ("A bit threadbare," sniffs a neighbour with wall-to-wall Wilton) fit into 9 Hellebore Close, whose dimensions are listed as: "lounge, 14ft 10ins by 12ft 7in; bedroom 1, 13 ft 1in by 10ft 1in; bedroom 2, 9ft 5in by 9ft 2in"? The smallness of the spaces in which most families live is a fact of life: it staggers Ms Townsend even today

books were, for Ms Townsend as for so many other writers, the key to her mania for reading. "I loved William because he constantly punctured and undermined adults' pretensions and vain ambitions. And Richmal Crompton wrote with such glorious humour and irony. It's the best of English writing."

She has continued to be a passionate proselytiser for reading and literacy. "I am addicted to print. And all my children are the same. They are all readers, thank God." It appalls her that Britain's literacy rate is lower than Taiwan's. When Mole's fantastic commercial success invited the inevitable merchandising, she would allow only things that would encourage writing: pencils, notebooks and diaries.

I admire the way Ms Townsend has controlled her fame and fortune. When riches arrived, she made firm decisions. Money, she says, gives you two things: space and choice. Nothing else matters. The Townsends eventually moved from the council estate to a sun-filled Edwardian house with secluded garden, minutes' from Leicester's railway station. When the postbags came, full of requests for her time or her money, she learned to say no. She has lost count of the covenants she has made to charities — all for unappealing causes like illiteracy and maladjusted teenagers. "Nothing winsome," she has managed to keep her four children and her husband, a canoe-builder (whom she met while on a canoeing course for playleaders, when he swam to her rescue) firmly out of the glare.

She remains a diffident public speaker and has done scarcely any television, with exceptions such as her BBC2 programme on *The Body*, for which she shed 20lb. "I had to re-examine my feelings about my body. I no longer wanted to live in this hunched-up English way, swathed in drapes of clothing, so you couldn't see what shape I was. It was a great breakthrough for me. I don't mean I started swanning around in a mini-skirt... Well," (she looks down at her trim, mini-skirted figure), "I did start swanning around in a mini-skirt."

At 47½ she is a grandmother of three. She left school at 15, sans qualifications, and married at 18. But she remembers the years of bringing up her first three children alone as good times. She was never downtrodden. She had three part-time jobs — mornings with old people, youth club from 7.30pm to 9.30pm, and being a waitress and barmaid until 2am in a pub restaurant, which put her off eating out for a while. "My first task every night was to pick out the mouse-droppings from the cream tings, and lies would fly out of the meat in swarms."

She felt vital and healthy, and poverty simplified life. She baked cakes every day. When the tele-

vision set broke, she thinks the children were happier; there was so much else to do. And she could escape into books. She started writing "with a chip pan permanently in one hand", and with plenty to write about.

Even as a child, she says, she had felt uneasy about people's reverence for the royals. "It used to amaze me that people worshipped them, just for being them. It's so demeaning. It didn't make sense. It seems extraordinary, now that they're on the front page, bare-breasted and having their toes sucked. But they were deities, then, lumped together with God and the Church."

She was, like everyone else of her generation, swept up in the excitement of Coronation Day in 1953. She remembers carrying a wobbly green jelly to the street party. Then came the news of the conquest of Everest. "Sherpa Tensing was my hero," she says, "and the Queen of Tonga, these Kipling figures — it confirmed what we'd been taught about the Commonwealth, those pink patches on the wax paper map that was rolled down in front of the blackboard. We knew we ruled the world, and there was the young monarch and her handsome consort in his Ruritanian getup, under the vaulted ceilings of the Abbey, The Abbey, and Mount Everest!"

Twin peaks, she recalls, that made little colonialists of us all. The cold, clear daylight of adult life has dissipated all that. Her humane, jolly writing style may cloak her real feelings of anger: she says she is not really as nice as she appears to be. "I can be very cruel", she says, "inside my head." Behind her hesitant manner and smoky laughter seethes a radical soul. Why is there no real action on illiteracy and unemployment? "Life is food and drink and work. Everybody needs work. You have to feel you are contributing something. It is lack of employment that criminalises people."

There are people on these council estates who try so hard to make life better, or just bearable. Women like Philomena Toussaint (the Queen Mother's West Indian neighbour in the book) and Violet: women who rally round at times of birth and death and crisis, and run play schemes, unpaid. All the people who show goodness and kindness. Nothing is more important than that. If anyone is worthy of our admiration, they are."

Adrian Mole lives on: in her next book he will be 23½, working in the Department of the Environment, studying the new population, a job he hates. *Mole* was a comic classic, in the underdog-diarist tradition of Footie. (She could not have foreseen that we would have a Moleish prime minister who could be parodied in Private Eye's *The Secret Diary of John Major* aged 47½.) But it was also subliminally

subversive about Thatcher's Britain. The new book has a far more overtly polemical thrust. Quite apart from the recent cracks within the royal family, she believes, the public is no longer as susceptible to the mystic reverence of majesty, as Bagehot predicted.

"We are so sophisticated now. We can't maintain this Ruritanian. They perpetuate a ridiculous hierarchy and we give them a huge amount of money that they do not need, being already fabulously privately rich. The figures are staggering, but the cost of keeping HMS Britannia, £30,000 a day, is

the most staggering of all. It is just simply not fair. The poor Queen is used as an emblem of British industry and export orders, yet the balance of payments is the same as ever. We're still on the yellow brick road and no nearer to Oz and, as she says in the book, she might as well have stayed at home."

Ms Townsend hopes her book will have, like *Mole*, a cross-generation appeal. It all ends happily, but older readers may recognise the fact that it is her wish that something like this might really happen, no matter how frightening such a change might seem. (Even she would miss the scarlet and gold of ceremonial spectacle.) "It is my wish to say: 'These people are only human beings. They are not really worthy of our worship and admiration. Such feelings have to be earned.'"

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Late decision to call off Tokyo trip exposes Yeltsin's vulnerability

BY ANNE McELVOY IN MOSCOW AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

PRESIDENT Yeltsin's decision to cancel his intended visit to Tokyo this weekend has confirmed his standing as a pragmatic political operator, but cast further doubts on his ability to resist pressure from the conservative-nationalist camp.

In Tokyo, Mr Yeltsin's decision was seen to reinforce doubts among Japanese companies about doing business with Russia, experts said. "Naturally, this is not a plus," said an official at the Japan Institute for Overseas Investment. "We don't know exactly why he called off the visit, but if one interprets this as a sign of political instability, it means that doing business there is riskier."

Observers in Tokyo agreed that Mr Yeltsin's decision to call off the trip showed he was losing ground to conservatives opposed to handing back islands off Japan's northern coast in exchange for economic aid. The visit, intended to discuss the future of the Kurile Islands which the Soviet Union seized from Japan at the end of the second world war, was looking not only ill-starred but positively dangerous for the Russian leader.

His opponents, right and left, had seized enthusiastically on the issue as a weapon against Mr Yeltsin. The islands, whose population totals 47,000 (20,000 of them military personnel), have acquired significance in the tangle of domestic politics. Both groups see the southern Kuriles as a symbol of national pride, the former because they resist the idea of Russia selling off its territorial silver in return for an influx of Japanese capital, the latter as a symbol of Soviet wartime gains.

In view of the variety of hostile forces ranged against President Yeltsin over the economy this autumn, the prevalence of nationalist sentiment in the country as a whole and the mounting ethnic unrest on the country's borders, he would indeed have been unwise to open up this particular flank, all in search of a diplomatic coup that he had not the slightest chance of pulling off.

But the unseemly abrupt-

ness of the cancellation is a startling indication of the Russian leader's vulnerability to the opposition lobby at whose whim he can be seen to have sacrificed an important opportunity to smarten up his international profile and open the way for some much-needed Japanese investment. Tokyo's sensibilities, already raw in dealings with Moscow over the southern Kuriles have been badly irritated. Staying at home to fend off internal critics today may have cost Mr Yeltsin a lot of useful yen in the future.

The question remains as to why he left the decision to call off the Tokyo visit so late. Although there have been signs that President Yeltsin had been considering cancellation for the last two weeks, preparations for the visit were at an advanced stage. A delegation of 40 Russian officials had already arrived in Tokyo, the sushi banquet and display of sumo wrestling had been planned and even the quarrels over his security arrangements settled.

The change was announced only minutes before a press conference that had been convened to present the Russian position in the talks on the Kuriles to Japanese journalists and was followed by a stormy meeting with his security council: a shadowy but extremely powerful policy making body in which hardline figures such as Aleksandr Rutskoi, the vice-president, wield influence. Procedures there were described by the president's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov, as "extremely difficult" — which in the political vocabulary of these parts means an almighty row.

The aura of lurching turmoil around the events demonstrates how finely balanced are Russia's political forces — and how far removed from normality are its affairs of state. Yesterday, President Yeltsin discussed progress on reform and other issues during a telephone conversation with President Bush, the presidential press service said. The Russian leader also spoke by phone with President Roh Tae

Woo of South Korea and offered to turn over Russian records relating to the shooting down of a Korean Air Lines passenger jet in 1983 by Soviet fighters.

Mr Yeltsin's talk with Mr Bush also touched on bilateral relations and interaction between Washington and Moscow in international events, the press service said, according to Itar-Tass news agency.

The report said President Roh "highly appreciated" President Yeltsin's offer to transfer materials concerning the shooting down of KAL Flight 007. The plane, a Boeing 747 flying from Anchorage to Seoul, was shot down on September 1, 1983, after it violated Soviet airspace. All 269 passengers and crew on board were killed.

South Korea said the airliner had entered Soviet airspace by mistake. Moscow insisted that it was part of a joint United States-South Korean reconnaissance operation.



Undiplomatic mission: A Moscow man and his grandson protest at the Japanese embassy to demand that America stay out of the Kurile islands dispute

PEOPLE

Tight India security for Princess Royal

The Princess Royal arrived in Delhi amid tight security on a private visit during which she plans to tour remote regions on the country's border with Tibet.

Accompanied by her private secretary and a lady-in-waiting, she met the Indian vice-president, K.R. Narayanan. The princess was scheduled to visit the regional office of the Save the Children Fund, of which she is president. The Indian army and police have set up elaborate security in the Sino-Indian border region where the princess is expected to spend five days.

About 5,000 elderly communists and several former Polish leaders paid their last respects to murdered former prime minister Piotr Jaroszewicz and his wife Alicja at a simple ceremony in Warsaw's Powazki cemetery, nine days after he was strangled and she was shot dead.

Li Guiren, a dissident Chinese editor jailed for trying to organise a strike to protest against Peking's crushing of

pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, is critically ill in prison, the US-based human rights group Asia Watch said. The group said that Mr Li, who is in his forties, has a serious heart condition, can no longer walk and has trouble standing.

The East German spy master Markus Wolf, 69, refused to answer questions from a parliamentary committee in Bonn about links with the former communist regime's financier, Alexander Schalck-Golodkowski.

Eric Clapton's *Tears in Heaven*, written as a tribute to his son Conor, four, who was killed in a fall from a New York flat last year, was named best male video at the ninth annual MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

The former West German chancellor Willy Brandt, 78, who has stomach cancer, is taking daily doses of morphine and is close to death, newspapers reported.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mirage deal is delayed

Taipei: Taiwan has postponed the signing of an agreement to buy 60 advanced French jet fighters despite indications that the French government would ignore Chinese protests and approve the deal.

The headquarters of the Taiwanese air force said that agreement to buy the Mirage 2000-5 jets had been delayed, but would not elaborate.

Informed sources here said that Dassault Aviation executives were in Taipei to sign the agreement. (AFP)

Party chooses

Peking: The Chinese Communist party has finished selecting almost 2,000 delegates to the fourteenth party congress, which is expected to be held this year. The meeting is likely to consider a reshuffle of the leadership. (Reuters)

UN flies in

Nairobi: A team of United Nations officials flew from the Kenyan capital to Somalia to win peace between the warlords and discuss ways of improving food distribution to help the country's starving millions. (Reuters)

Arms charge

Orlando: A federal jury in Florida has charged Innocent Bisangwa-Mbugu, secretary to President Museveni of Uganda, with arms smuggling. Two retired Egyptian officers and two Americans were also charged. (AFP)

Hot work

Tokyo: The Japan Atomic Energy Research Institute said that its scientists had achieved the highest temperature so far achieved artificially — 440 million degrees Celsius. (AFP)

Rich to poor

Cairo: Wally Taylor, 61, who was too poor to pay his phone bill, bought a lottery ticket and won Aus\$1 million. Fearing his life would be changed, he gave it away immediately to friends and research. (AP)

150 die as two-day deluge hits Pakistan

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

AT LEAST 150 people are believed to have died in northern Pakistan after two days of torrential rain deluged the capital, Islamabad, and wreaked havoc in mountainous regions north of the city.

The government sent hundreds of rescue workers to Kashmir and declared a state of emergency in many mountain districts. Entire villages were engulfed in mudslides, prompting fears that the death toll could rise heavily when rescue workers start digging for bodies.

Low-lying areas of Islamabad, the small and extremely poor capital of "Azad (free) Kashmir", were turned practically into a lake. Water rose to the first floor of the town's only hotel. Two rivers that flow through the town, the Jhelum and the Leelum, burst their banks.

The town has few hospitals and telecommunication facilities are minimal. The few roads are little more than mountain tracks in places and frequently are washed away or blocked by mudslides during the monsoon. This is bound to hamper rescue efforts.

The mountain resort town of Murree, 30 miles north of Islamabad, was engulfed. The meteorological office in Islamabad said it bore the brunt of the downpour. Many mountainside villages in the area were swept away and mudslides engulfed others.

The disaster came after a continuous downpour that began late on Tuesday and ended at dawn yesterday, dumping 14 inches of rain on most areas of Kashmir. Eight inches of rain fell on Islamabad and the neighbouring city of Rawalpindi in the same period, forcing several planes to be diverted to Karachi.

Several areas of Islamabad and Rawalpindi were knee-deep in water. Flooding in the capital and neighbouring areas washed away many shanty homes, leaving thousands homeless.

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Democrats seize on White House economic policy disarray as electoral pendulum swings

Fitzwater backtracks on Bush tax pledge

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

ONLY hours before President Bush was to make an important speech in Michigan on the economy yesterday, White House officials threw his re-election campaign into confusion by backtracking on the "no new taxes" promise he made earlier in the week.

Marlin Fitzwater, the White House press spokesman, insisted that Mr Bush had not given any kind of pledge in New Jersey on Wednesday when he said he would never again raise taxes. Mr Fitzwater's remarks threatened to overshadow the president's speech in Detroit, which has been billed all week by his aides as a comprehensive statement on the economic agenda for a second Republican term in the White House.

The Democrats greeted Mr Fitzwater's intervention with unreserved glee. Al Gore, Bill Clinton's running mate for the

presidential elections, said he was grateful to the press secretary for showing that Mr Bush was not to be trusted. "We now know that whenever Mr Bush bangs his fist on the table and sets his jaw and says he will never ever do something, he doesn't really mean it. Four years ago Mr Bush fooled many people with his promises. We all know better this time, thanks to Mr Fitzwater."

Mr Bush's comments in his New Jersey speech have been widely seen as a renewal of his 1988 "read my lips, no new taxes" promise.

He said he had made a mistake in 1990 by agreeing to a tax rise to get a deficit-reducing budget through the Democrat-controlled Congress. "We do not need to raise taxes," he said. "I found out the hard way: I went along with one Democratic tax increase and I'm not going to do

it again. Ever, ever." The confusion over the status of the president's comments could not have come at a worse time for the Republicans. Mr Bush has been struggling to seize the initiative on the economy, the central issue of this year's presidential campaign, from Governor Clinton. His campaign managers had devoted this week to the economy. Their aim has been to convince voters that the president has a clear idea of what he wants to do to improve the country's sluggish economy. More, the Republicans have been describing his Detroit speech in advance as a landmark in his re-election campaign.

The backtracking on Mr Bush's New Jersey anti-tax comments may well be a public manifestation of the bitter debate raging in the White House about future economic policy.



Ethics woman: Hillary Clinton, wife of the Democratic presidential candidate Bill Clinton, addressing a class at a school in Traverse City, Michigan. She spoke to the schoolchildren about their rights and responsibilities.

Polls point to a cliff-hanger in presidential race

Robert Worcester, of Mori, examines the work and the methods of opinion pollsters as they gear up for the American presidential election in November

The opinion polls flutter across the American landscape like leaves in the autumn wind, with no fewer than 39 national polls and scores of state polls having been reported since the nomination of Bill Clinton, the Arkansas governor, for the Democrats at their convention in mid-July. At that time, when most of the running was being made by the Democratic challenger rather than President Bush, Mr Clinton led by a huge 20-point lead.

Pundits looked for the Republican convention "bounce" to see the effect on the presidential contest, following the renomination of Mr Bush. There was a 6 per cent swing to the president during the period of the Republican convention, the pre-convention figures of 61 per cent for Mr Clinton, 39 per cent for Mr Bush narrowing to a ten-point gap, 55-45, after re-allocating the "don't knows". Since then however, the Clinton figures, unlike those of Michael Dukakis four years ago, have recovered and the last two polls reported, by ABC News/The Wash-

ington Post and Gallup/USA Today, showing a 16 point Clinton lead with 58 per cent to 42 per cent for Mr Bush.

One reason why polls are often reported as being "all over the place" is that different polling firms use different techniques to identify their samples and ask voting intention. In America there tends to be quite a low turn-out by British standards: current estimates are that fewer than half of eligible Americans are expected to cast their ballot on November 3. Some polling firms ask all registered voters while others ask only "likely voters", those registered voters who have indicated they will vote in November by their answers to various questions. The best way to iron out these methodological differences is by re-allocating the "don't knows" to put the figures on an equal basis.

From August 25 to 27, Yankelevitch, Clancy, Shulman, for Time magazine, questioned likely voters and found 14 per cent were undecided, 40 per cent for Mr Bush and 46 per cent for Mr Clinton. From August 26 to 29, Louis Harris and Associates found 45 per cent for Mr Bush and 50 per cent for Mr Clinton with only 5 per cent undecided. It would appear there was a 4 to 5 per cent discrepancy for each candidate between the pollsters' results. Yet by re-allocating the undecided figures each pollster found 47 per cent for Mr Bush and 53 per cent for Mr Clinton.

With the American federal system of voting, where electors vote in their states for the state's share in the electoral college, state by state results are important to examine. Polls taken at the end of August show a similar pattern

to the national findings: polls in Illinois, Minnesota, Ohio, Maryland and Tennessee all show Mr Clinton leading Mr Bush by 12 to 14 per cent. In Alabama, however, where the Democrats' addition of Al Gore, the Tennessee senator, to the ticket as the prospective vice-president was designed to bring the conservative South back to the Democratic fold, the two parties' candidates are level pegging, and in North Carolina Mr Clinton leads by 52 per cent to 48 per cent for the president.

American national polls by the well-known polling organisations are all done by telephone and use sample sizes of about 1,000. The so-called statistical reliability figures of plus or minus 3 per cent for a sample of 1,000 is the same as for Britain, with an electorate of 43 million, as it is for America, with an adult population of 186 million (or Ireland, for that matter, with 3.5 million). More important than statistical reliability, as seen in the recent British election, are late swings and differential turn-out, the two

main causes of the British pollsters' 1992 downfall.

Democratic presidential hopeful Paul Tsongas, senator for Massachusetts, is in Britain this week meeting British officials. American Democrats and others, and is launching his "concord coalition", an Economic Common Cause, intended to bring a voice of fiscal responsibility to whomever is elected.

My own guess at this stage, in the first of my weekly articles about the American election, is that we are in for a cliff-hanger, but with the eventual result that we will wake up on the morning of November 4 with a re-elected Mr Bush having won by 53 per cent to 47 per cent facing a Democratic Congress and economic gridlock in America for four more years.

Robert M. Worcester is chairman of Mori and visiting professor of government at the London School of Economics. His analysis of the US elections will be appearing weekly in The Times and is compiled with the assistance of American Enterprise magazine.

Doctors debate cash for kidneys

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

WITH seven people dying in America every day as a result of the shortage of organ donors, transplant charities here are considering proposals to legalise cash payments for organ donation.

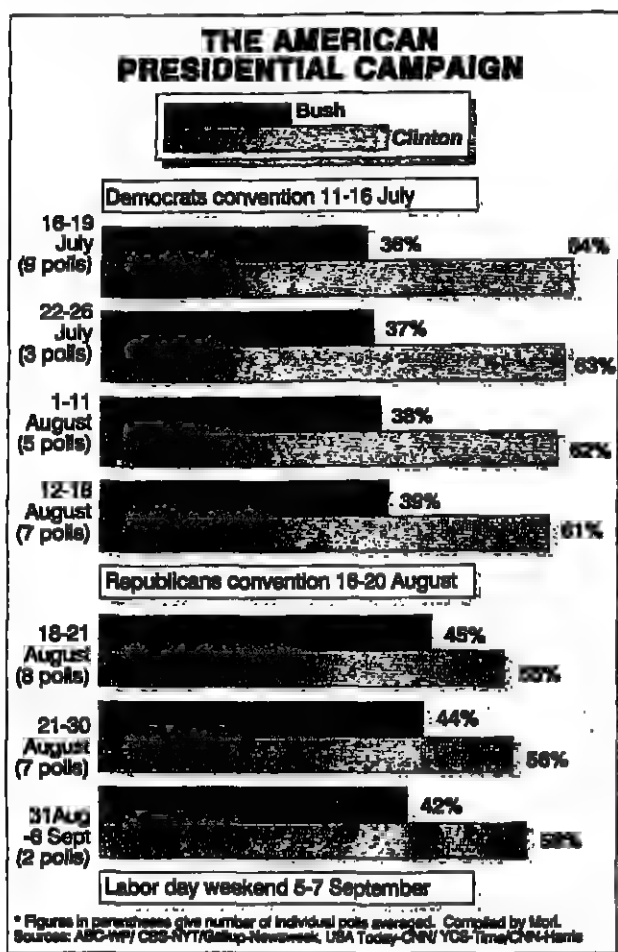
The National Kidney Foundation of America is conducting a survey to establish the public reaction to plans which would make the bereaved families of organ donors eligible for financial compensation. Various schemes have been proposed including the payment of a flat fee to donors' families, reimbursement for burial or medical expenses and a form of life-insurance.

Demand for organ transplants in America has grown since the procedure became increasingly successful and routine during the 1980s but the number of donors has hardly moved. The idea of involving cash, rather than just conscience, as an incentive for donating organs has led to ethical debate within the medical establishment.

Under the US Transplant Act of 1984 it is a felony to buy or sell organs — a law which was passed to prevent "trading" in vital body parts and prompted by fears that poor people might resort to selling their body parts for hard cash. Some physicians now argue that while the sale of organs by live individuals should remain illegal, the law should be amended to permit the payment of modest sums to the families of donors, who often face large medical expenses.

Opponents of the scheme say that introducing the cash nexus into the emotionally difficult process of organ donation could dissuade people from making a choice that should be based on charity rather than profit, while others argue that the opportunities for litigation make a cash-for-organs scheme impossible.

● Pittsburgh: A man who lived for more than two months after receiving a baboon's liver was infected with HIV, the virus that causes Aids, the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre said. The unidentified man died of a brain haemorrhage. He had not developed Aids. (Reuter)



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The art of exploitation



THIS week in the Saturday Review, Bryan Appleyard looks at how the line between pornography and art is being eroded by stars like Madonna and Mapplethorpe.

Also Sally Brampton meets Michael Heseltine. Has the man who brought down Margaret Thatcher really blown his chances of power forever?

And in this week's Travel Section, Matthew Parris defies jet lag to face a long distance getaway weekend in Buenos Aires.

Plus Malcolm Bradbury recalls his hated schooldays and Tom Stoppard his favourite books. Mary Whitehouse talks of her childhood and Jonathan Meades finds one of Britain's best gratins dauphinois in a restaurant in Bath.

THE TIMES

Old enemies buoyed by new mood of hope over Golan

ISRAEL and Syria, the most implacable foes in the Middle East, yesterday separately hinted that peace might be in prospect based on territorial compromise over the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

But Farouq al-Sharaa, the Syrian foreign minister, promptly dampened hopes of a breakthrough by saying that hints of territorial compromise by Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, were "unacceptable". Syria's aim remained a full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights, he said.

There were none the less clear signs of a new atmosphere between the two countries. Mr Rabin for the first time explicitly said he was ready to swap some of the strategic land in exchange for a full peace treaty with Damascus. In an interview with Israel Radio, he raised new hopes for the peace talks reopening in Washington on Monday by commending a "significant change" in Syria's tone. He emphasised, however, that Damascus must limit itself to reaching a peace treaty in Israel before it could begin to discuss ceding territory on the Golan. "We have said that in

Clear signs are emerging that Israel and Syria are making progress on resolving the conflict over the Israeli-occupied territory, Christopher Walker writes

exchange for a peace treaty that promises an end to war and opens the borders between Syria and Israel, diplomatic relations and normalisation, that Israel is ready to implement (United Nations resolutions 242 and 338," Mr Rabin said, adding: "This implies, of course, some sort of territorial compromise."

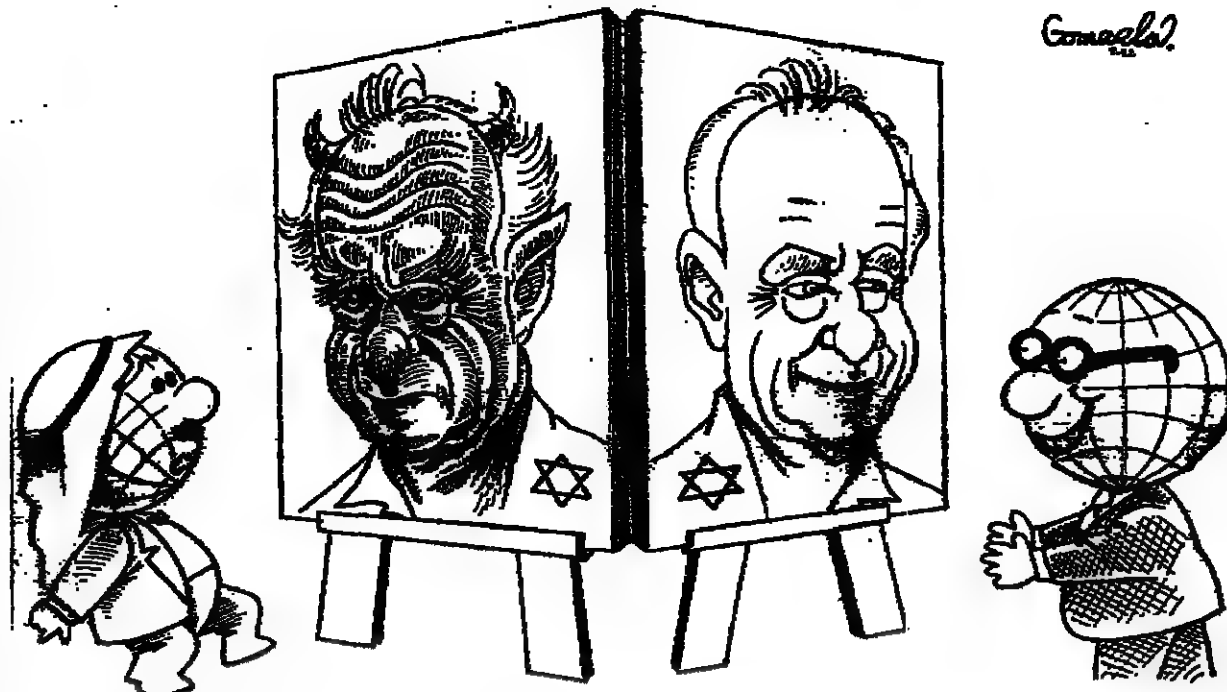
The prime minister declined to outline the size of possible territorial concessions despite repeated Syrian demands that it would accept nothing less than the whole. Israel television claimed that, in documents exchanged in Washington last week, Damascus proposed that, once Israel had recognised Syrian sovereignty, an Israeli lease on the area for a period of years could be discussed.

The new mood of hope, a dramatic change from the gloom which surrounded Israeli-Syrian negotiations only a few weeks ago, was reinforced by a senior Syrian

diplomat who said: "We are positive about recent Israeli interpretations on the Golan Heights."

Armed al-Hassan, Syria's ambassador to Iran, expressed cautious optimism on the talks in an interview with *Abrar*, the Tehran daily, and claimed that Mr Rabin had accepted that the Golan Heights belonged to Syria. He said the Israeli leader was adopting a healthier stand on the talks than had Yitzhak Shamir, his hardline predecessor, but insisted that Syria had not altered its stand. He called for total Israeli withdrawal from all occupied land and rejected any form of Israeli occupation, domination or lease of the Golan Heights.

The hints, however vague, of a possible deal infuriated Israel's right wing. Bitter leaders of the 12,000 Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights announced anti-government demonstrations, beginning



Double vision: *al-Ahram*, the semi-official Egyptian newspaper, portraying a two-faced Yitzhak Rabin

with a Saturday night rally at Ben Gurion international airport to coincide with the departure of peace negotiators for Washington. "We

have no doubt that Rabin defrauded us, his voters, everyone who supported Labour in saying that the settlements of the Golan

Heights would not be harmed," Eli Malka, a settlers' leader, said. Mr Rabin, who virtually wrote off the chance of

progress with Syria during his election campaign, rejected the charges, saying: "I told the Golan settlers that the principal security importance

of the Golan Heights is, first of all, the geographic and topographic significance for the military. The settlements are secondary."

On Wednesday Mr Rabin was heckled in the Knesset, recalled from summer recess to discuss the peace process. "This is a black day," shouted Michael Eitan, a deputy from the recently-defeated Likud party. "This is the first time an Israeli prime minister has notified parliament he will give up territory to which Israeli law has been extended." Israel annexed the Golan in 1981 under the prime ministership of Menachem Begin. They were originally occupied in 1967.

Munich: Bavaria yesterday denied Israeli claims that German police bullets may have killed some of the Jewish athletes who perished in the September 4, 1972, Arab terrorist attack on the Munich Olympic Games.

Official files on the massacre, in which 11 Israelis died, were not withheld from the victims' relatives, the justice ministry said in a statement responding to claims in an Israeli television documentary about the terrorist attack and its aftermath. (AP)

Pretoria asks UN to broker deal with ANC

FROM MICHAEL HAMLYN IN JOHANNESBURG

THE South African government went on the offensive yesterday with a surprising appeal to Boutros Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general of the United Nations, to send a representative to the country to try to end the violence and get talks restarted.

With Pretoria under international criticism in the aftermath of the killings at Bisho in the Ciskei, R. F. "Pik" Botha, the foreign minister, sent a memorandum to Dr Boutros Ghali urging him and members of the security council to demand that the African National Congress and the South African Communist Party abandon "any further provocative actions which put at risk the lives of innocent South Africans".

Mr Botha also said that the government was prepared to "take steps of a coercive na-

ture" against those such as the leaders of the black homelands who did not agree to uniform measures to deal with protests. Yesterday, Mr Botha condemned Ciskei troops for their actions at Bisho.

Ministers here, as well as the right-wing press, have hitherto been keen to pin the blame for the killings on the rashness (or cynicism) of senior communists in leading demonstrators towards the troops at Bisho, and have seemingly disregarded the doctrine of minimum force.

Mr Botha's memorandum asked Dr Boutros Ghali to consider sending a special representative as soon as possible to assist in strengthening the peace secretariat and its regional structures, established here under an accord signed a year ago by the government, the ANC and the Inkatha Freedom Party, and to attend as an observer the meeting of the accord's signatories proposed by President de Klerk.

Mr Botha also asked for the envoy to "enter into discussions with the main political role players with a view to assisting in bringing violence to an end and in removing the remaining obstacles to the resumption of negotiations". The South African government has plainly moved a long way from the days when it and the UN were in mutually hostile camps and it would in-veigh against foreign interference in its internal affairs.

ANC officials have recently depicted the internationalisation of the South African political impasse as a victory. Mr Botha stole more of the ANC's clothes yesterday by saying that the government and other parties in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa were considering "whether any useful purpose will be served by continuing to negotiate with parties who had demonstrated no desire or intention to keep their commitments".

At a press conference in the Union Buildings in Pretoria yesterday, Mr Botha said the government was still committed to a negotiated democratic constitution and to elections being held as soon as possible, but added: "We have now reached a point at which violence is making the realisation of these ideals increasingly difficult to attain."

On Wednesday, Mr de Klerk announced that the government would establish guidelines for the management of demonstrations that would also be negotiated with the leaders of the so-called independent black homelands. Yesterday, Mr Botha was asked what would happen if Ciskei did not keep to such measures. He replied: "If it will lead to a lessening of tension and is in the interest of all citizens, we will take steps ... I cannot say what steps, but we have reached the point when we will take steps of a coercive nature."

Last month, the UN sent the former American Secretary of State, Cyrus Vance, to South Africa as a representative of the secretary-general. He recommended that more monitors should be sent to work with the peace secretariat. The first 13 of the monitors are due to leave for South Africa today.



Mandela: resigned from all ANC posts

Winnie's downfall complete

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

WINNIE Mandela's fall from power in the African National Congress is now complete. She has announced her resignation from its national executive and her positions in its powerful Women's League. Yesterday, she became just another card-carrying member of the organisation.

Her decision came in the wake of fresh controversy over her relationship with Dali Mpofu, a young black lawyer, and the appeal court decision on Tuesday to commute to life imprisonment the death sentence passed on Jerry Richardson, former coach of her team of bodyguards, for the murder of a child activist. The judges found that Mrs Mandela's influence over Richardson had to be regarded as a mitigating factor.

In a statement, she blamed her political downfall on "enemies ... inside or outside our ranks". She said: "Those who have rejoiced in reading about our problems, and those who for selfish political and personal reasons have waged a vicious and malicious campaign against me, and through me [against] the leadership of my husband and our organisation, have unfortunately partly succeeded in their aims."

Letters, page 13

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T11/9

Pardon my English

Philip Howard on why sloppy speech won't die

Under the new, back-to-basics shake-up of teaching English, teachers will be expected to correct children who speak sloppily, even in the playground. This sounds bad news for Chaucer and Shakespeare, who rhymed out with our present standard English. Or Johnson himself spoke sloppy English, pronouncing "superior" *shuperior*, and saying "wooner" for "once", "poontish" for "punch", and "there" as though it rhymed with "near". A playground in 1992: "Ouch, yaroo, you wanker, wharver you mean by nicking our ball. Gerroff." Mr Quelch, primly: "Now, Bunter, neither 'wanker' nor 'nick' are acceptable in the lexicon of standard English, and the correct enunciation of the phrases you mangled so sloppily is 'what do you mean' and 'kindly remove yourself'."

Not even secretaries of state for education and chairmen of national curriculum councils can mean that they are going to try to instill in British children to speak with the speech and nasal southern drawl that they use themselves, can they? If they do, it is back to the barbaric age of hanging placards around children's necks and beating them for speaking with a regional or "uneducated" accent. They cannot include accent, not even Brummie or a Belfast accent, as the kind of sloppiness to be corrected by teachers in the playground. Accents should be considered as a part of standard English only as a pronunciation target for foreign students learning English as a second language. Of course, if your accent is so thick, whether Brummie or politician's southern drawl, other tribes may have trouble understanding you. Margaret Thatcher always had this problem in Scotland. English is tribal, not standard.

All notions of a standard English are entwined with ideas of class and political control. There is no British equivalent to the Académie Française to set this elusive standard. Standard English cannot mean the kind of English that is in most common use, since even if we could discover it statistically, it would surely have an American twang. It surely cannot mean the English of a particular social class, ie, the upper-middle suburban and bossy class. A minute of listening in the pub or on the television, or indeed in the playground, shows that most English in actual use in the real world is anything but standard. It is richly varied, tribal, vernacular, coarse, inarticulate, sometimes expressive, usually ungrammatical. This is the way of language. Life would become intolerable if everybody spoke with the precision of a professor of classics, or with the yawping standard vacuity of politicians.

The idea of a standard English works better with the written word. In its written form, a sort of standard English is used by all writers of English who manage to get published by a reputable publisher, with remarkably little variation. But even in written English, there is no generally agreed standard of English; and any disputed version is inevitably changing all the time, in grammar, syntax, vocabulary, spelling, and all its other departments. What social engineers usually mean by standard English is the value-loaded terms "good" or "educated" English, which most of us can recognise in a dim and value-loaded way, mixed up with our class and regional prejudices.

In 1988, the Kingman report on the teaching of English got much closer to the thorny heart of the matter than this week's simplistic report from the National Curriculum Council. It said: "All of us can have only partial access to standard English: the language itself exists like a great social bank on which we all draw and to which we all contribute."

Presumably, all that this week's instructions mean is that teachers, even in the playground, are expected to correct obscenities and howling solecisms. "No, no, Bunter, not 'it's' 'im' dunnit." "It was he who did it." Good teachers have always done this, and will continue to do so, no doubt to some beneficial effect.

But in the war against sloppy English in the playground, my money is on Bunter and Shakespeare against the politicians. Ordinary English speakers have always won against authorities in the past, thank God. Because they are the real masters of the language. We must humbly help our children in their apprenticeship to our greatest common treasure.

British troops leaving for Bosnia could find themselves under fire from all sides, writes Roger Boyes

Peace-keepers at war

The mission of protecting United Nations relief convoys to Sarajevo and other besieged Bosnian towns, which 1,800 British troops are soon to join, defies every lesson of modern warfare. The International Red Cross in Zagreb has been widely distributing a handy Serbo-Croatian booklet called *The Rules of War*, but almost every one of these rules is broken every day: unarmed civilians are shot at; prisoners are frequently beaten up and sometimes killed; soldiers are shot with their hands up or with their backs turned; the Red Cross symbol provides a useful target for artillery and mortar fire; ambulances are good sport for snipers. Without pretending the Gulf war, it is clear that even Saddam Hussein fought more cleanly.

The battle in Yugoslavia more closely resembles the Spanish guerrilla tactics in the Peninsula than Napoleon, than the Natchez Indians, than the advance of Russian tanks across the north German plains. The 1st Battalion Cheshire regiment, which is

among several British units on standby, is armed with 7th Armoured Brigade, and its soldiers know how to handle their heavy Warrior combat vehicles. But the land corridor from Split to Sarajevo is ambush country, running along narrow winding roads. The ancient stone bridges are not built for military convoys and like the roads themselves are easily mined. The British vehicles have powerful 30mm cannon that can blast away almost any vehicle used to block the road. But will the Cheshires be allowed to return "enemy" fire and who is the enemy anyway?

The Bosnian Serb leader, Dr. Radovan Karadzic has promised to silence his big guns or at least submit them to UN monitoring. But many local Serb commanders, unhappy with this decision, are doing their best to get round it. Their experience in Gorazde is that when the guns

are moved back from the city they are besieging, then the Bosnian Muslims launch a counter-offensive. That in turn threatens the Serb communities in cities such as Bihac and Jajce. So the Serb commanders are staying put. And as far as they are concerned the UN is the enemy for it is the UN that is trying to force them to abandon their holy mission of defending the Serbs against Muslim revenge. They even suspect that UN relief convoys are bringing guns and ammunition to the Muslims. That puts the UN and their Nato escorts directly into the Serbian firing line.

But the Bosnian Muslims also appear to be shooting at the UN. In Sarajevo the local UN commander is convinced that his most recent casualties were the work of Bosnian Muslim soldiers. It is difficult to say how he can be so sure. The Serbs are determined to pass on some of

the blame to the Muslims and are not above smuggling a mortar or snipers into Muslim positions and fabricating an attack. Yet there are Muslim commanders who believe that there are only two ways out of the war: a full-scale Western intervention that would be launched only when the UN mission was fatally compromised; or a decision to withdraw the UN and instead arm the Bosnian Muslims. Both options seem to be served by attacking the UN force.

Nor is the Croat position exactly lucid. The regular Croatian army has withdrawn from active military co-operation with the Bosnians (probably as a new step towards the partitioning of Bosnia between Serbs and Croats). Nonetheless, tough irregular ultra-nationalist units are continuing to fight and they share the Bosnian Muslims' scepticism about the United Na-

tions. In UN protected areas in Croatia, there have been a number of bloody incidents. When the UN eventually withdraws from Croatia, the Croats will want to reclaim the territory lost to the Serbs last year. Those who want an early military confrontation with Serbia are thus keen to chase away the UN.

In a classic murder novel, the detective always searches for the person who had both motive and opportunity on his side. In the murder of UN soldiers, there are Serbs, Croats and Muslims who have the motive and the opportunity.

Despite the remarks this week of the defence secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, that UN troops in Bosnia had the right to defend themselves if attacked, the present rules of engagement are quite restrictive and this is contributing to the fast fading morale of the UN troops. There is friction between the various

national contingents in Sarajevo, with some complaining that they are being put in the firing line. At present, a UN soldier shot at by a sniper can return fire, but he cannot engage a sniper who shoots down a Bosnian grandmother a few yards away. If a machine gun mess is hampering a convoy the soldiers are not allowed to launch a preemptive attack. If the UN hears of an ethnic cleansing operation underway it cannot intervene but only file a report.

This means that the success of the first protected relief columns will be particularly significant. There are too many warrior myths circulating in the republics of the former Yugoslavia. The Serbian army has come to think of itself as invincible. Public demonstration of its limitations would make a useful point not only to the victims in Bosnia and many ordinary Serbs who are weary of war, but also to the cynical battlefield commanders in Bosnia who are merely waiting for the West's attention to shift elsewhere before reloading their guns and carrying the war further south.

When tactics are not enough

The prime minister's problems over Maastricht are obscuring his long-term aims, says Peter Riddell

The minister sounded almost convincing. He explained how the government could work its way through its Maastricht predicament, keeping both its European policy and the Tory party more or less intact. This may work. But for all John Major's firm resolve last night against any realignment, preserving the current exchange-rate mechanism (ERM) parties could be trickier, not just immediately after the French referendum but over the autumn and winter.

The weakness in the government's approach is that the emphasis is all on tactics. There is little sense of strategy. Everything is designed to surmount immediate obstacles, rather than to provide a clear lead and to mobilise public opinion. In that sense Mr Major is a Wilsonian figure, Harold rather than Woodrow. That is sometimes wrongly taken to imply that a politician does not believe in anything. That would be unfair, certainly on Mr Major. He genuinely believes that Britain's place is at the heart of Europe. But like Harold Wilson, Mr Major is so keen to guard against all eventualities that his message becomes blurred. Paddy Ashdown touched a raw nerve when he said Mr Major was too much the whip concentrating on Tory party unity.

The resulting ambiguity was epitomised by Mr Major's speech to the European Community presidency conference this week. Admittedly, it was not a speech that Margaret Thatcher could ever have delivered. Mr Major wants Britain to be active in a strong, and developing, EC. But the Maastricht treaty itself was discussed in qualified terms. It was not ideal, but, overall, it was good for Britain in limiting

centralisation and extending co-operation between governments, and "worth preserving". The easiest way to do that, he said, was to ratify the treaty. He was not exactly launching a crusade.

That can, of course, be seen as prudent since, if the French vote against the treaty is dead and Mr Major, and other EC leaders, will quickly have to devise a workable approach to counteract the inevitable confusion and loss of momentum. By chance, the main discussions will be in America — foreign ministers will be in New York for the United Nations General Assembly, where they will hold an emergency meeting, and finance ministers and central bank governors will be in Washington for the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund. The immediate focus will be on the ERM. The British government will try to carry on with the uncompleted agenda of the single market (where important directives on telecommunications and transport are outstanding), the Gatt round free trade talks, strengthened co-operation, future financing and preparations for enlargement. The questions about centralisation raised by Maastricht will not go away: the EC will not stand still.

The danger is that everything will unravel, and that probably includes the recent agricultural agreement. National interests will be reassessed; for instance, the Mediterranean countries will resist enlargement talks in the absence of more money from Brussels and some countries may develop their own financial and economic arrangements.

But everything will not be as before even if the French vote for the treaty. There will be obvious, and loud, relief. The currency markets may stabilise, especially



if they can foresee a cut in German interest rates. Britain will seek to highlight the rest of the EC agenda to show that it is business as usual. But there are still the Danes. They have promised a white paper on their concerns around the end of the month. But it is not yet clear what the Danes want in terms of declarations and changes to the treaty and whether the rest of the



EC can deliver. However, if the Danish difficulty looks like being resolved, the government may test opinion in the Commons by holding what ministers call a general "paving" debate, as Mr Major promised in June. Ratifying the treaty is likely to be long, bruising and probably boring, but the government should get the bill. The Tory anti is certainly vocal, but ministers reckon there are no more than 30 hard core opponents, dismissed as "nihilists" with no real alternative by one senior minister. The prime minister and the whips squashed the rumblings of discontent in the summer and new MPs have been told by Richard Ryder that, if they want careers in the Commons, they had better not rebel. Labour, including its leadership, remains

divided both on Maastricht and the ERM. Apart from procedural votes such as any quilloting, a sizeable group of Labour MPs and the Liberal Democrats will not vote against the bill.

The whips have not yet advised on the timing of the Commons debate, and whether also to restart the committee stage before the EC heads of government council in Edinburgh in December. That will be when the commission reports back on how to translate the treaty's vague words about subsidiarity into practical, and enforceable, rules. The council of ministers is engaged in a similar exercise, and Britain is interested in setting up a Euro-Law Commission to simplify EC laws and directives. Subsidiarity is now all the fashion, for which members of the European People's party (Christian Democrats and allies such as the Tories) expressed enthusiasm at their meeting in London this week.

If the French vote yes, the markets will stabilise, the Danes will come into line, the treaty will eventually be ratified, the Brussels commission will be chastened and the British view of a more decentralised community will rule the day. Perhaps. That is the optimistic, the government, version. The missing ingredient is the public. As today's new poll shows, there is as much unease among British voters about the treaty and the EC as in other countries. These doubts are only partially expressed in the Commons.

The obvious way to establish consent is via a referendum, so far resisted by the Tory and Labour leaderships. But John Smith faces growing party pressure to shift his position and the idea is gaining support in the press. I remain sceptical since the Maastricht treaty cannot easily be encapsulated in a referendum proposition without raising wholly unrelated issues. But Mr Major has somehow to establish popular support for his approach. That means that he must be more than an adroit whip.



...and moreover
ALAN COREN

I suddenly find myself in a position to knock over sub-post-offices with impunity. Should that pall, I might alleviate the subsequent boredom by slipping into a seedy hotel with, let us say, an unemployed Iberian southerner, confident that neither he nor the chaitaine would be able to identify me and cozen a few bob out of the tabloids. And were I to find myself in the *Question Time* audience, I should, when Peter Sison's finger beckoned, be able to spring to my feet, curse the assembled parliamentary rabble in language so simultaneously foul and libellous that the BBC switchboards would fuse to molten solder, and then vanish into the night without any risk whatever of recrimination or writ.

For in all these cases, they would be looking for a man with a heavy moustache. It would have been the first thing they had noticed, and the only thing they remembered. That is the kind of moustache it is.

You are right to pause and glance up at the photograph. But you are not right to mutter, oh, grown a moustache, has he, is that all, struck for a subject again, you can always tell when a columnist is going off, up comes a moustache. Think, and you will quickly realise that merely growing a moustache would not allow me the full range of subversive fun of which the examples listed above are but the waxed tip. I would have to keep shaving it off and instantly growing it again, wouldn't I?

I have not grown a moustache at all. I have bought one. In fact, I

have bought three: I should not want the sub-postmistress or the chaitaine to leap from their chairs in the middle of *Question Time* shrieking: "That's the man!" So I have bought an M2, an M4 and a C102, although those unfortunates to moustache about in Tavistock Street will need to think of them as a Groucho Marx, a Jimmy Edwards and a Che Guevara. I look knock-out in all of them. Children flinch: dogs run, yelping.

None of this would have come about did the London parking system not make work for idle hands. A couple of days ago, due for lunch in Covent Garden at one, I arrived at 12.30 to give myself time to find a meter, but struck lucky immediately. It was bang opposite the premises of Charles H. Fox Ltd, purveyors of make-up to the theatrical trade since 1878. With time to kill, I walked across. It was a great window: hung with racks of moustaches and beards and sideburns. It enabled me, by variously crouching and sliding, to position my reflected face so that I became a hirsute spectre. At which point, a thought appeared on the horizon, no bigger than a man's goatee. I looked at my watch. I went in.

When I came out, I was walking behind a dark brown M2. I also had an M4 and a C102 in my pocket. A snip, as it were, at £7.40 each, and — if you look like Groucho, puns come easy — not to be sneezed at, not at least, for those uncertain of the properties of spirit gum. When I arrived at Boulestin, my host, who was wait-

ing the door from his table and has known me for 20 years, did not recognise me. I took off my hat and stared at him. He looked away. It was only then that it dawned on me that I should not be able to come clean — thanks, Groucho — but would have to wear the thing right through lunch, because however great a fool I might look with it on, it would be nothing to the fool I would look if I suddenly whipped it off. So when my host said: "How long have you had a moustache?" I just smiled, and since the crinkling lid didn't mudge it off, I needed to say nothing.

But I have never had such trouble with a menu: I had to find stuff you could poke through a fringe with impunity, purity being debits adhering to an M2, which might itself end up adhering to a napkin. I chose cold sautéed prawns, grilled sole and cheese, none of which I fancied, and I let trapped windpipes trickle down for collection on my chin. Thank God I didn't buy a beard. £18.50, since you ask.

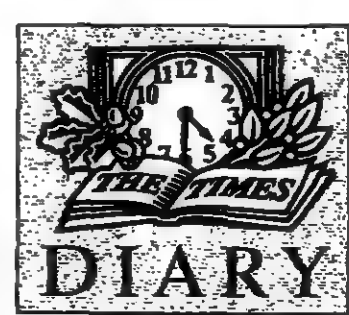
I got away with it, though. It stayed on, and it has been on and off a fair bit since, although M4 and C102 have remained pristine in their packets. You need to work up to a Jimmy or a Che. Just one thing nags at me: pristine has two senses, and when I look at the labels, the words "100% human hair. Made in Hong Kong" gives me pause. Is someone, I wonder, even now sitting down at a table in Seoul's fashionable Crispy Airedele firm, opposite a host saying: "How long haven't you had a moustache?"

Theatre of the absurd

AND after Godot came David Mellor. Waiting for the minister of fun on Wednesday night could have been a scene straight out of Samuel Beckett. There were Sir Michael Checkland and John Birt hosting the party to celebrate 25 years of the BBC Radio's *The World This Weekend*, nervously consulting their watches, wondering if the arts minister would show. Among those kept waiting were not only the BBC bosses but politicians Lord Callaghan, Enoch Powell and Roy Hattersley, as well as Mellor's cabinet colleagues Virginia Bottomley and Michael Howard. Even Martin Bell, still recuperating from his injuries sustained in Bosnia, had made it on time.

Where could Mellor be? The minister had eagerly accepted the invitation and speeches were delayed pending his arrival. One senior employee wondered if Chelsea were playing at home. BBC executives shuffled restlessly and politicians exchanged ribald suggestions about what had detained the minister. Still they waited, for Birt and Checkland were reluctant to pass up the opportunity of a blessing from the minister in charge of broadcasting — especially when Mellor had turned up earlier in the day at Classic FM to add his personal endorsement to BBC radio's first national rival.

By a quarter to eight Checkland was engaged in a jovial debate with David Hatch, BBC radio's managing director, about whether the latter-day Godot would show. Reluctantly they decided that Callaghan, the guest of honour, could be kept waiting no longer. Brandishing a large knife, the former prime minister hovered menacingly over



the anniversary cake. "This is a benign cut," he announced to the Mellor-less gathering. "And it is the only one I am going to make at the BBC." As for Mellor, he never did appear and offered no explanation. But then neither did Godot.

Ever since the four police officers walked free from a courthouse in the Simi Valley in California — thus sparking the Los Angeles riots — local inhabitants have felt their reputation across the United States to be seriously damaged. So much so that the local council in Simi is now discussing changing the suburb's name. The suggested new identity? The much more soothing and serene sounding San Susanna.

Faith triumphs

SAMUEL Johnson is about to get his book back. The good doctor, whose bronze likeness has stood outside St Clement Dane's church in the Strand for over 80 years, was recently robbed of the volume by vandals. After reading of his plight in this column last week, Faith Winter, who sculpted the Bomber Harris statue unveiled at the church by the Queen Mother earlier this year, has come to the rescue.

Winter has written to Tom Goode, the resident chaplain, offer-

ing "to sculpt the replacement book for free as a contribution to your church". The Bureleighfield arts foundry at High Wycombe, which cast the Harris statue, has also offered its services free of charge. Winter says: "It is a small return for the kindness the church staff showed me during the planning stages of my statue of Sir Arthur Harris." Despite Dr Johnson's mishap, the Harris statue has remained unscathed. "We were very nervous because of the controversy," Winter says. "But the statue is constantly being enhanced by people laying wreaths and flowers on the plinth."



Read my lips

DESPITE his nice guy image, John Major still knows how to wound. Tony Benn, in the latest volume of his diaries to be published next month, records a conversation with Major, then Chancellor of the Exchequer, after a Commons debate on the EMS in November 1989. "I think Mr Thatcher would have agreed with most of what you said," Major told Benn. The Labour left-winger was predictably appalled. "Well I don't agree with her!" he snapped back.

"You will be in the EMS soon," "Yes", Major replied, "but it doesn't make any difference at all." Try telling that to the markets.

So why was Tony Blair so late for the Crime Concern conference at Westminster yesterday? Well actually he wasn't. The organisers kept him waiting outside until Michael Jack, the junior home office minister had left, having been told by Jack's office that the minister was not prepared to share the stage with the shadow home secretary.

Cheer leader

WHILE the Tory and Labour parties are actively discouraged from using the facilities of Westminster for election fund-raising purposes, there seems to be no such bar on American politicians. The United States presidential election comes to the oldest parliamentary democracy today when Paul Tsongas, a former candidate, and the economist J. K. Galbraith host a cocktail party and dinner at the House of Commons to rally support for Bill Clinton's campaign. Under the auspices of Lord Howe of Troon, a Labour peer with interests in international civil engineering projects, politicians and businessmen will pay £100 a head to help boost the Democratic campaign under the slogan "Bill Clinton offers a meaningful change in direction for America".

But if Clinton hopes that the cash will help finance his campaign, he is seriously mistaken. All money raised will be used to pay off debts incurred by Tsongas during his own attempt to secure the Democratic nomination. No wonder he lost. With the pound now hovering around the two dollar mark, Tsongas and friends are inviting payment in dollars — at the extremely generous and uncapped rate of \$1.92 to the pound.



GOOD MONEY AFTER BAD

John Major has staked huge personal credibility on the defence of sterling and the defeat of inflation, apparently to the exclusion of all other economic goals. When he promised, as he did again last night in Glasgow, that sterling would not be devalued, adjusted or realigned from its ERM parity of DM 2.95, he unquestionably meant what he said. Yet the currency markets do not seem to believe him. If they did, sterling would not be floundering at the bottom of the ERM despite the billions of pounds spent by the Treasury to buoy it up. Why are international investors treating Mr Major's promises with the respect due to a used-car salesman?

The reason is simple. Mr Major can no more guarantee to maintain an arbitrary price for sterling in the market place than could his benighted predecessors in the 1950s and 1960s. The prime minister has it in his power to curb inflation with either fixed or floating exchange rates. He could, if he wished, manage fiscal and monetary policy to achieve faster economic growth. But outside the realm of a Europe gasping its desperate way towards full-scale monetary union, the value of sterling, like any other market price, must be determined by the demand for British goods and assets. The performance of the economy will determine the exchange rate, not statements by politicians or central bankers. Was this not the truth in which the present cabinet was schooled?

Mr Major is justifiably proud of his achievement in lowering inflation. But while high inflation is undesirable, endlessly "squeezing inflation out of the economy" is neither a necessary nor a sufficient condition for the attainment of other more important economic goals. The Treasury has told Mr Major that his policy on inflation is inseparable from the Treasury's liking for fixed exchange rates. The mandarins have somehow persuaded him that both will automatically bring prosperity and economic growth, at least by the next election.

This view is misguided. An example of just how misguided is offered by this week's events in Sweden. The Swedish govern-

ment's bizarre measures to defend its currency as a prelude to joining the European Community and the ERM are the *reductio ad absurdum* of the policy Mr Major propounded in Glasgow. Sweden has already reached his promised land of near-zero inflation. Its prices are rising at 2.2 per cent annually, the lowest rate in Europe. This achievement has done nothing to improve the credibility of a fixed exchange rate. Sweden is enduring an overnight interest rate of 75 per cent. Mortgage rates are 24 per cent and rising. Hoping to impress the markets even further with its commitment to "prudent" policies, the Swedish government has said it would borrow up to £22 billion, or 23 per cent of Sweden's gross domestic product, to throw at the market.

Would Mr Major raise British mortgage rates to 24 per cent and borrow a quarter of GDP from foreign banks to defend sterling if the market pressures became overwhelming after the French vote? Even if he did, would he be able to live up to his sterling commitment? Even Sweden's hugely imprudent and economically destructive package is unlikely to hold up the krona for much longer than the nine days remaining until the French referendum.

If on September 20 the EMU illusion is shattered once and for all, the prime minister will have to acknowledge a difference between the means and ends of economic policy. Exchange-rate management is not an end, any more than is the progressive reduction of inflation. Both are means to the end of economic growth.

In these matters, the markets rule. If the Treasury could find a combination of fiscal and monetary policies that would make economic recovery compatible with the present exchange rate, then Mr Major can keep his promise on sterling. But to "defend" the pound with ever-higher interest rates and ever more severe deflation is counterproductive and economically destructive. Sweden has long offered sound object lessons in how not to run an economy. Europe must heed these lessons in what is now its hour of acute economic need.

TROOPS IN DANGER

Britain is sending almost 2,000 British troops to Bosnia-Herzegovina just as the civil war has turned against all outsiders trying to provide food and relief for Sarajevo. The zone is more dangerous than any conventional war. The British are joining an enlarged "peace-keeping operation" whose size, mission, authority and lines of command have not yet been properly defined. The ostensible reason is to respond to the UN Security Council's resolution authorising "all necessary force" to protect the convoys of food and medicine winding their way over the mountains and through the roadblocks to Sarajevo. That resolution itself was an oblique response to the world outcry over the bestial conditions in detention camps which television so shockingly revealed.

The attacks on the UN forces have broken whatever taboo protected them. But no greater leeway has been given to them to protect themselves. They cannot return fire unless their own lives are directly threatened, and that may be too late. They could kill an innocent civilian in the dark if they feared he was about to attack them but cannot respond to a deadly mortar attack from the hills. Although the UN lays down strict rules of engagement, local commanders on the spot are certain to interpret them differently.

The UN has been outraged by the tactics of Muslim fighters who are targeting the forces which are trying to help Muslim civilians, presumably to induce even more outside intervention. France and Italy are demanding much greater protection for their men. But all the UN can do is send in more troops. Acting under the same restrictions, these can offer their fellow blue berets no greater cover, and only expose themselves to similar attack.

The UN troops will not begin to be safe

until they can take control of all heavy weapons in the area. But this is a very different function from the original mission, and will probably require a new security council mandate. The Serbs are unlikely to co-operate. Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader, offered in London to let the UN supervise the weapons. His side has said that sort of thing before, to no effect. He did not say he would turn over control. He now accuses the UN of bias and may renege even on this promise. Since monitoring would be the first step to stopping the fighting around Sarajevo and implementing subsequent London undertakings, the enlarged peace-keeping force in Bosnia will now find it hard to carry out even this useful step.

Britain has long warned against creeping intervention in this civil war. The government clearly felt obliged to make its troops available in keeping with the UN resolutions it supported and out of solidarity with fellow Europeans. Other countries are following suit, with similar reluctance. The Germans, who did so much to encourage Yugoslavia's partition, have yet to contribute.

The urgent task now is to co-ordinate proper lines of command, nominally under the Egyptian UN commander in Bosnia; to obtain from the warring parties assurances that food convoys will be allowed through; and to allow the troops to defend themselves as vigorously as the UN rules allow. At present these troops are the classic tactical targets for madmen on both sides. They are sitting ducks. Britain is sending soldiers on what looks like a foolhardy venture for the sake of its international image. The UN must prepare itself to withdraw in good order the moment its cause becomes untenable. This business has all the makings of another Beirut.

LONDON CLEAN UP

Squalid, rubbish-strewn pavements punctuated by overflowing litter bins and families of black sacks clustered outside restaurant doorways: this has become the accepted image of London's West End, one that appals tourists and shames Londoners. Yesterday the stereotype was reinforced by William Davis, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, in the foreword to his annual report. London's image, he said, "has become more than a little tired, even tarnished... A great deal more needs to be done to improve the quality of the London experience, including further efforts to combat litter."

Visitors to London this summer might not recognise his description. For quietly and almost unnoticed, the streets of London's West End have been swept free of detritus. The city which three years ago was considered too dirty by four-fifths of all foreign visitors has cleaned up its act, at least in the areas tramped by tourists. A survey by the Tidy Britain Group earlier this year found, much to everybody's surprise, that the streets of Westminster were second only to Bern in their cleanliness, beating Paris, Brussels, Rome and Madrid.

Westminster Council has made litter-picking a crusade. Its privatised service collects 212,000 tonnes of rubbish a year at a cost of £30 million. The black and gold rubbish bins now widely installed in the West End have given a more elegant air to the pavements and have encouraged people to drop their litter in a bin rather than on the street. This may have started a virtuous circle: the cleaner the streets become, the less people will dirty them again.

Would that other boroughs followed West-

minster's example! The streets around the Tower of London, for instance, are notable for their lack of litter bins. Any tourist who strays outside Westminster, such as into the Camden part of Covent Garden, is likely to encounter the discarded sweet wrappers and junk-food cartons that swirl in the wind and wrap themselves round the ankles. If Westminster can do it — incidentally at a quarter of the cost per head of Paris's refuse collection — why not its neighbours?

Tourists also complain that London is expensive. This is still true, for Americans at least. Most things cost twice as much as back home, a function of the weak dollar, over which London restaurateurs have no control. When the pound was almost at parity with the dollar, London looked cheap. Now it is undeniably expensive, though low occupancy has led to widespread haggling for cut prices. But other aspects of the capital are cheap, including Tube and bus passes and the "urban gallery" of parks, gardens, streets and architecture.

It would be dangerous, however, to become complacent about London's attraction to foreigners. Residents have congestion and poor public transport, but they have to put up with them. Tourists need not do so. They can decide where to go and when and one day can quickly eclipse another in its attractions. It is easy to be annoyed by tourists; they seem to get under Londoners' feet, clog up pavements and move at a different pace from locals. But they also contribute £4.5 billion a year to the capital's economy, representing 4 per cent of its GDP, and support 200,000 jobs. London must strive to impress its tourists; it cannot afford to lose them.

Way forward after Ciskei massacre

From the Reverend Kathleen Richardson and the Reverend John Pritchard

Sir, One of those who narrowly escaped death in the Ciskei massacre (report, September 8) was the presiding bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Dr Stanley Mogoba, vice-chairman of the National Peace Accord committee, an independent body set up by a wide range of groups including the South African government and the African National Congress. Along with other committee officials, Dr Mogoba was there in the hope of facilitating communications between the leaders of the demonstration and the Ciskei troops, but had to dive for cover as the bullets flew.

Dr Mogoba has called for the establishment of a joint peace-keeping force, including components from ANC's armed wing, Umkhonto we Sizwe, from the South Africa Defence Force and police, and from troops of the Transkei, Ciskei, Bophuthatswana and Venda (since, though their governments have no international recognition or credibility, the armies exist).

In effect he is calling for the creation now of the unified force which must in due course be set up by the elected post-apartheid government. The force should be given a distinctive uniform and the power to intervene in every situation where there is unrest, which the South Africa forces have signally failed to do hitherto.

Dr Mogoba has appealed to all parties to use more moderate, less confrontational language, and instead to work together to find negotiated solutions. This is a brave voice in an inflammatory situation. We are greatly impressed by his personal and political courage and believe his proposal should be speedily implemented.

Yours etc,
KATHLEEN RICHARDSON
(President, Methodist Conference),
J. R. PRITCHARD
(General Secretary, Methodist Church Overseas Division),
25 Marylebone Road, NW1.

Aid to Somalia

From the Director of Care

Sir, Andrew Hill ("Somalia's gunmen demand food as price for protection", September 8) writes that relief agencies working in Somalia sometimes allocate half a shipment of food to gunmen hired to provide protection. This is nonsense.

Care is the agency running the port operation at Mogadishu. The first two consignments after the port re-opened in May, totalling 12,000 tonnes, were distributed by Care with a loss rate of only 8 per cent. I have just returned from spending several days in southern Somalia with the Care relief teams working there. Never before have I witnessed such extreme suffering.

We must renew our demands that the UN moves quickly to provide security by ensuring that enough troops are on the ground to facilitate free distribution to those most in need.

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN HOPKINS (Director),
Care,
36-38 Southampton Street, WC2.
September 9.

Loyalty to the state

From Professor Brian Thomas

Sir, The problem of loyalty and the right to challenge the establishment posed by Mr F. Newton Parks (letter, September 5) can be resolved in part by distinguishing between the state, which is relatively permanent, and a government, which is temporary. Such a distinction can be clearly made in Britain, where a permanent head of state co-exists with a temporary head of government.

State and monarchy have larger claims on our loyalties in so far as both are constitutional. The regimes listed by Mr Newton Parks collapsed principally because their monarchs and dictators exercised the executive power now seen as the preserve of representative government.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN THOMAS,
Regent's College, Inner Circle,
Regent's Park, NW1.
September 8.

Off with their heads

From Mr Michael Brindle, QC

Sir, Your leader, "Georgian Hydra" (September 2), may be a masterly analysis of current Georgian politics, but your ancient history is more shaky. Jason, that heroic visitor to what is now Georgia, never met the Hydra, still less did he chop off its heads to win the Golden Fleece. It was Hercules who slew the Hydra at Lerna on the Greek mainland.

What Jason did do, of course, was to sow the serpent's teeth, from which armed warriors sprang and attacked him. He solved this problem by making them fight each other.

Without spelling out the obvious parallels, it may be that there is, after all, some scope for comparison between Jason's plight and that of the valiant Mr Shevardnadze.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL BRINDLE,
Fountain Court,
Temple, EC4.
September 2.

Business letters, page 21

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

Climate change and species' survival

From Professor R. J. Berry

Sir, You call upon the government (leading article, September 1) to arrange for co-ordination of research on changes in the distribution of animals and plants as a more cost-effective way than megacomputer models towards understanding the possible consequences of climate change on biodiversity. I hope your plea is heard.

In 1988, I chaired an enquiry for the Linnean Society into the organisation of biological recording in Britain. In taking on the job, I expected it would be largely a public relations exercise, and that my working party would describe a system which could be an exemplar to other countries.

In fact we found a state of disorganised dedication, with little clear interpretation emerging for planners or politicians. We recommended a national co-ordinating commission.

After wide consultation, this was accepted by the Natural Environment Research Council, and such a group has been set up under Sir John Burnet. At the same time, NERC revised and improved its own facilities; many of the data in your recent articles on biological changes in Britain (August 8, 13, 17, 24, 31) were collected or collated by NERC scientists.

However, the Burnet commission has yet to prove that Britain has the will to turn recording passion into effective monitoring, and the situation has been complicated by the break-up of the Nature Conservancy Council. Implementation of recommendations of the House of Lords report on taxonomy would help; but an essential starting point must be greater urgency and priority for the support of (in your words) the "extraordinary network of amateur but highly-skilled observers of wildlife which can be mobilised for free."

The prime minister's Darwin initiative is intended for the world; we must not forget that while Darwin himself learnt much from his travels, his ideas were matured and tested in the English countryside.

Yours etc,
SAM BERRY,
University College London,
Department of Biology,
Medawar Building,
Gower Street, WC1.
September 2.

From Miss Tessa Robertson

Sir, Michael McCarthy's series of articles was timely, as was his conclusion that the government should support a nationwide programme to monitor changes in species behaviour. The next step will be to identify the impact of these changes. Do they threaten the survival of the species? If so, what needs to be done to limit climate changes so that species can survive?

The objective of the International Climate Change Convention, signed at the Earth Summit in June, is to limit climate change to levels which will allow ecosystems to adapt naturally. These levels have yet to be determined.

Memento mori

From Mr C. H. Rolph

Sir, When I was a small boy, all the grown-ups seemed agreed that the good die young. Now that, alas, I'm 91, and study your obituaries each morning in the process of deciding whether it's all right to get up, I find that most of the nonagenarians are people I've never heard of.

Can this mean (I hope not) that my age is something to be ashamed of, as well as being (in about equal proportions) frightened and gratified about it?

Sincerely,
C. H. ROLPH,
33 Hitherwood,
Cranleigh, Surrey.
September 7.

Ocean? I suppose they are old-fashioned for today's child, besieged by a pop culture which eschews gentleness and melody.

Yours faithfully,
JANET ATKINS,
Cross House, Whitington,
Carnforth, Lancashire.

From Mr Rowland Hill

Sir, Will anyone who can't sing "On Ilkley Moor Baht 'at" please return home from Greece immediately?

Yours sincerely,
W. R. HILL,
Stubham Rise, Myddleton,
Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

From Miss Maureen Keaveney

Sir, "You'll Never Walk Alone" seems by now to have assumed the dimensions of a traditional English song.

Yours faithfully,
M. A. KEAVENEY,
39 York Road, Brentford, Middlesex.

From Mr Alan Saggeron

Sir, A group of Meo hill-tribe villagers near Chiang Mai in northern Thailand was left open-mouthed (in admiration) after a particularly boisterous rendition of "Ring-a-ring-a-roses".

Yours faithfully,
ALAN SAGGERON,
204 Alexandra Park Road,
Muswell Hill, N22.

conclusively, but the Stockholm Environment Institute states that a temperature increase of more than 0.1°C would be enough to endanger vulnerable ecosystems, such as coral reefs and mangroves.

Since latest estimates suggest we are already committed to a temperature rise of 0.3°C per decade, achieving the IPCC's objective will require massive reductions in the pollutants which cause greenhouse effect.

In February WWF published examples of world-wide habitats and wildlife already suffering from climate change. Much more scientific work is needed to pin down exactly what rate of change will be tolerated by nature. Unless that research continues urgently, so that definite results become indisputable facts, politicians will not take action — much to their shame.

Yours faithfully,

TESSA ROBERTSON
(Pollution and Energy Officer),
World Wide Fund for Nature,
Panda House, Weyside Park,
Canneshall Lane,
Godalming, Surrey,
September 3.

From Mr Alwyn Wheeler

Sir, I would not wish to detract from your encouragement of the government to fund biological studies into the effects of climate change, but I question some of the assertions made in Michael McCarthy's report of August 24 and repeated in your leading article.

The basking shark and sea horse are both said to have increased in numbers possibly as a result of climatic change. However, in the late 1940s Gavin Maxwell was commercially fishing basking sharks in the Minches, and another fishery existed off Co Mayo. Sea horses have occurred from time to time, even in the southern North Sea, since the 1860s. They seem to be no more common today than in previous decades.

Only the trigger-fish seems to have increased in numbers in the past ten years.

The evidence from fishes is very inconclusive as some southern species, such as Ray's bream, were caught in much greater numbers in the 1970s than they are today.

Yours faithfully,

ALWYN WHEELER,
14 Theydon Park Road,
Theydon Bois, Essex,
September 4.

From Mr John L. Campbell, FRSE

Sir, For the first time since 1947, the Clouded Yellow butterfly has appeared on this island, where I have been observing insect migration for a good many years. It was first seen on May 29 and has been seen frequently since, usually in two particular places, in one of which a breeding pair was found on August 19. The last sighting was on September 3.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN L. CAMPBELL,
Canna House, Isle of Canna,
Inner Hebrides.

Chinese dissidents

From the Chairman of the Refugee Council

Sir, You report today (September 9) on the application by two Chinese dissidents, Chen Yu and Lin Lin, for a judicial review of the decision to deport them from the colony. This case is one of grave concern to the Refugee Council.

Chen Yu is a journalist and poet who played a leading role in the pro-democracy movement in China while Lin Lin, a supporter of the pro-democracy movement, has provided Chen Yu with a hiding place. Human rights violations continue in China and there have been reports of new actions being taken against pro-democracy activists.

The two women would be at serious risk if returned to China. I earnestly hope that the foreign secretary and the Hong Kong authorities will not send them to an uncertain fate and that they will be given protection, either in Hong Kong or in another safe country.

Yours sincerely,
CLINTON-DAVIS,
Chairman,
The Refugee Council,
3 Bowdoy, SW8,
September 9.

Pride in pluralism

From Squadron Leader W. B. Wells, RAF (ret)

Sir, You will find what I consider the ultimate example of pluralism, although not ecclesiastical (letters, August 25, September 1, 7), in *The Times* of January 28, 1985, where the following item was reported under Appointments in the Forces: "Group Captain (Acting Air Commodore) B T Sills as Director Rest of the World, Jan 2."

Yours faithfully,
W. B. WELLS,
4 Claypole Drive,
Northborough,
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire,
September 7.

Letters to the editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 071-782 5046.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
September 10: The Princess Royal this evening departed from Gatwick Airport for a visit to India and was received at the Airport by His Excellency the Indian High Commissioner (Dr L.M. Singh). Mrs David Bowes Lyon and Lieutenant Colonel Peter Gibbs are in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 10: The Princess of Wales, Patron, Turning Point, opened the Griffin Project at Earls Court, London SW5.

KENSINGTON PALACE
September 10: The Duke of Gloucester, President, the British Consultants Bureau, this morning opened the "Vietnam - Asia's Next Tiger" Conference at the Headquarters of the Confederation of British Industry, Centre Point, 103 New Oxford Street, London WC1.

In the afternoon The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior, the Order of St John, opened the St John Ambulance Buckinghamshire County Headquarters and

the Robert Payne Training Centre, Tindal Road, Aylesbury. Later His Royal Highness opened the Tindal Centre, Berton Road, Aylesbury.

YORK HOUSE
September 10: The Duke of Kent, President of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, this morning opened West Messia Southouse, Essex, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Essex (the Lord Braybrooke), Captain the Hon Tom Cole was in attendance.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
September 10: Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy this afternoon visited the Leukemia and Cancer Children's Fund Buchanan House of Recovery at Rattray, Blairgowrie, and were received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Perthshire (Major Sir David Burrell).

Royal Commission for the exhibition of 1851

The following awards are announced for 1992:

Industrial Fellowships:
M. Graves, Transfer Technology Group plc and University of Wales College of Cardiff. Development of a real time radiographic inspection technique for quality control in the food industry. D.S. Hall, CMB Packaging Technology plc and Oxford Polytechnic. Adhesion between metals and polymers for packaging materials. D.J. Marples, GPT Limited and Strathclyde University. The intelligent network paradigm extended to private communication systems. D.M. McNeil, MLC and Donald Watson and Land Development Ltd and Queen Mary and Westfield College, London. Development of a three dimensional algal transport model. A. Pembler, British Aerospace plc and Southampton University. The development and application of thin film processes and techniques to the microfabrication of a sensitive resonating solid state accelerometer.

Industrial Design Studentships:
A.E. Cooper, Loughborough University. Tesside University College, C.D.S. Halsefield, Imperial College, University College, London. G. Lockyer, Brunel University. Royal College of Art/Imperial College. O. Price, Cambridge University. Royal College of Art/Imperial College. C. Watson, Southampton University. Royal College of Art/Imperial College.

Research Fellowships:
Miss H.H. Fielding, Oxford University. Physical Chemistry, at Amsterdam University. K.W.R. Gilkes, Cambridge University. Physics, at Cambridge University. A.J. Goodwin, Oxford University. Geophysics at California University, USA. Dr J.S. Haviland, Exeter University. Inhomogeneous Combustion Theory, at Exeter University. Dr J. Hinchey, Exeter University. Applied Mathematics, at Newcastle University. Dr A. Zingoni, Imperial College. Structural Analysis, at Imperial College.

Birthdays today

Professor Norman Ashton, pathologist, 79; Mr Franz Beckenbauer, football manager, 47; Sir Austin Bide, former chairman, Glaxo Holdings, 77; Mrs Justice Booth, 59; Mr Paul Cole, racehorse trainer, 51; Sir Bernard Fadden, architect, 73; Mr E.A.J. George, deputy governor, Bank of England, 54; Lord Gibson-Watt, 74.

Mr Michael Lambert, racehorse trainer, 48; the Earl of Leicester, 83; Lord Marleford, 61; Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC, MP, 63; the Hon Jessica Milford, author, 73; Mr Barry Sheene, motorcycle champion, 42; the Right Rev John Taylor, former Bishop of Winchester, 78; Mr Roger Unley, rugby player, 43.

Eltham College

Term began on September 9 and will end on December 18. The school's 150th Anniversary will be celebrated with a celebration of rugby football on September 13 (kick-off 1.30pm). The Community Orchestra will give a Charity Concert in the Blackheath Halls at 7.30pm on September 26. The Recruiting Officer will be performed on December 9-11 and *Noyes Fludde* on December 14-15. The Ethnians' Winter Reunion is scheduled for December 12, with the Carol Services the following day.

The John Fisher School

Term began at The John Fisher School on Monday, September 7. Benjamin Liddard is Captain of the Rugby Football Union and Captain of Rugby. The Head Master, Mr T.J. King, retires at the end of term and will be succeeded by Mr R. Gregory, MA, from January 1, 1993.



Stepping back in time: walkers try out the newly restored Icknield Way, reputed to be the oldest road in Britain, before its official opening today in Balsham, Cambridgeshire. Running between Ivinghoe Beacon, Buckinghamshire and Knettishall, Suffolk, the path was part of a neolithic route

Church news

Clergy appointments

Next Archdeacon of Ludlow
The Rev John John Saxby, Director of Training in the diocese of Exeter, Joint Director of the South West Ministry Training Course and Prebendary of Exeter Cathedral (Exeter), to be Archdeacon of Ludlow (Hereford) succeeding the Ven John Lewis and also Prebendary of Hereford Cathedral and Priest-in-Charge of Wistanow Holy Trinity w. Cwm Head St Michael and St Margaret, Acon St.

The Rev Philip Dobson (Sheffield) to be Assistant Curate at Cove (Guildford)
The Rev David Evans, Assistant Curate St Mary, Somerset Town: to be Priest-in-Charge, Holy Innocents, Harnley (London)
The Rev Stuart Eason, Team Vicar, St Michael Eastington and St Peter Laxton, Howden Team Ministry (York): to be vicar, St James, Heywood (Manchester)
The Rev Laurence Foxham, Team Vicar, Holy Trinity, Oldham: to be vicar, St James, Ashton-under-Lyne (Manchester)
The Rev Anthony Miller, Rectory, Woodwardine Wood: to be officiating Chaplain to HM Forces, Donnington (Leitchfield)
The Rev Christopher Newell, Assistant Chaplain, The Royal London Hospital, Whitechapel (London): to be Rector, St Agnes, Birch in Rushmore (Manchester)
The Rev Charles Razzell, Team Vicar and part-time UPA Officer, St Andrew, Oldham: to be Team Vicar, Holy Trinity Oldham and also Area Dean of Oldham (Manchester)
The Rev James Read, Curate, Holy Trinity w. St Alban and St Paul, Smethwick (Birmingham): to be Team Vicar, St Philip, Abertown Team (Manchester)
The Rev Michael Robinson, Vicar, St Stephen, Aspley: to be Rector, St Paul, Blackley (Manchester)
The Rev Timothy Ross, Director, St Marylebone Healing and Counselling Centre, London: to be Priest-in-Charge of St Dennis and Parish Development Advisor for the Diocese of Truro (Truro)
The Rev James Stewart, Assistant Curate at Cove: to be Team Vicar at Cove (Guildford)

The Rev Andrew Thomson, Rector of St Paul's, Marlborough, Diocese of Hereford, Winchester, to be Priest-in-Charge of North and South Creeke w. Waterden, East, North and West Barham and Southrop (Norwich)

The Rev Peter Vargason, Curate, Wincles: to be vicar, Yaeley (Worcester)
The Rev David Williams, Vicar, Harborne-on-the-Hill and Rural Dean of Thurock: to be Priest-in-Charge of Rochford (Chelmsford)

Resignations and Resignations
The Rev Dennis Brown, Vicar, East w. West Wellow (Winchester): to retire as from Easter 1993
The Rev Michael Burley, Assistant Curate, Scarborough St Mary w. Christ Church and The Holy Apostles (York): to resign as from 30 September

The Rev Canon Brian Cordingley, Vicar, All Saints, Hamer (Manchester): to retire as from 30 September
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Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Pierre de Ronsard, poet, Vendôme, 1524/25; James Thomson, poet, author of *The Seasons*, Ednam, Roxburgh, 1700; Thomas Barnes, Editor of *The Times* 1817-41; London, 1785; O. Henry (pseudonym of William Sydney Porter), short story writer, Greenville, North Carolina, 1862; Sir James Jeans, mathematician and astronomer, London, 1877; D. H. Lawrence, novelist, Eastwood, Nottingham, 1885.

DEATHS: David Ricardo, economist, Goucombe Park, Gloucester, 1823; Antonio de Quental, poet, Rio de Janeiro, 1900; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, first governor-general of Pakistan 1947-48, Karachi, 1948; Jan Christian Smuts, field marshal, prime minister of South Africa 1919-24, 1924-48, near Pretoria, 1950; Nikita Khrushchev, premier of USSR 1958-64, Moscow, 1971; Salvador Allende, president of Chile 1970-73, killed during a military coup, Santiago, 1973.

Memorial service

Mr Elizabeth David
A memorial service for Mrs Elizabeth David was held yesterday at St Martin-in-the-Fields, Canon Geoffrey Brown officiated, assisted by the Right Rev Edward Roberts. Mrs David's husband, Mr David, died in 1988. Mrs David was a well-known author and food writer. The service was held at 11.30 am.

Mr R.N. Ashley
The marriage took place on Saturday, September 5, at St Lawrence Church, Chobham, Surrey. The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Miss Susan Knott, Miss Virginia Podd and Victoria Sturt. Mr Miles Ashley was best man. The reception was held at Brook Place and the honeymoon is being spent in Italy.

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Marriages

Mr J.M. Arroyo
The marriage took place on August 22, at St Dunstons Church, Great Glen, Leicestershire, between James Arroyo and Kerry Ford.

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Latest wills

Sir Denis Charles Barnes, of Wiltshire, Kent, first chairman of the Manpower Services Commission, his estate valued at £55,634 net. Other estates include (net, before tax paid): Brigadier Michael Richard Lavin Robinson, of Shipdon under Wyke, Oxfordshire, £398,121; Mr Rauben Bernard Shotes, of Bromley, Kent, £831,185; Mrs Agnes Helen Stuart Vigors, of Tisbury, Wiltshire, £505,313; Mr Thomas George Woodburn, of Wokingham, Surrey, £911,975.

Retirements
Judge Rubin retired yesterday from the Circuit Bench on the South Eastern Circuit. Lord Justice Fox and Lord Justice Parker will retire as Lords Justices of Appeal on September 30.

Service luncheon
Royal Regiment of Fusiliers World War I veterans of The Royal Fusiliers were among those entertained at luncheon yesterday at the City of London Headquarters. The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers, HM Tower of London, Colonel P.F. Shervington, Deputy Colonel (City of London) presided.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr D.A. Berry
The engagement is announced between David Anthony, only son of Mrs L.L. Ryder and the late Mr S.A. Berry, of Chessington, Surrey, and Christine Elizabeth, younger daughter of Mrs Joy Morgan and the late Mr Rex Morgan, of Chessington, Surrey.

Mr C.J. Bous
The engagement is announced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs David Bous, of Shepperton, Middlesex, and Sylvia, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Donald Clarke, of Worcester, Hereford and Worcestershire.

Mr A.J. Brecher
The engagement is announced between Andrew Justin, son of Mr and Mrs David Brecher, of Hampstead, London, and Susan Gillian, daughter of Mr and Mrs Leonard Ferleman, of Finchley, London.

Mr J.D.R. Darby
The engagement is announced between James, son of Mr and Mrs John Darby, of Headley, Hampshire, and Annabella, daughter of Mr Anthony Bradford, of Lisbon, Portugal, and the Hon Mrs William Ward, of Putnam, London, SW6.

Mr N. Diffey
The engagement is announced between Neil, second son of Mr and Mrs C.R. Diffey, of Locks Heath, Hampshire, and Helma, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs J.Y.H. Leung, of Hong Kong.

Captain J.M. Harris
The engagement is announced between James Maxwell Harris, 9th/12th Royal Lancers (Prince of Wales's Own), son of Professor and Mrs John Harris, of Hereford, and Heidi Kjeldsen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Solitt, of Richmond's Green, Thaxted, Essex.

Mr D.S. Narkis
The engagement is announced between David Simon, youngest son of the late Dr Eli Narkis and of Mrs Miriam Henderson, of Harncliffe, Buckinghamshire, and Alison, younger daughter of the late Anthony Maurice Stephens, of St John's Wood.

Mr R.W. Kess
The engagement is announced between Robert, younger son of Mr and Mrs Maurice J. Kess, of West Wickham, Kent, and Fiona, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Grant Paton, of Eynsham, Oxfordshire.

Mr P.M. Lewis
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr John Lewis, of Warwick Court, East Sussex, and Mrs Julia Cockell, of the Pink Cottage, West Kingston, and Caroline, elder daughter of Mr Brian Bucknall, of Woodcote, Oxfordshire, and Mrs Kate Bucknall, of Leamham House, Ruyton XI Towns, Shropshire.

Mr S.R. Mackness
The engagement is announced between Shaun, elder son of Mr Barry Mackness, of Icomb, Gloucestershire, and Mrs Caroline Mackness, of Wensleydale, North Yorkshire, and Mary, youngest daughter of the late Mr and Mrs Robert Clough, of Ilkley, West Yorkshire.

Captain J.R. Shafro
The engagement is announced between Captain Jeremy Shafro, Army Air Corps, elder son of Major Robert Shafro, of London, SW11, and of Mrs Nicola Williamson, of Bath, Avon, and Amanda, elder daughter of Captain (ret) and Mrs Nicholas Cochrane, of Easthampton Park, Berkshire.

Mr H.J.M. Shaw
The engagement is announced between H.J.M. Shaw, only son of Mr H.J.M. Shaw, and the late Mrs A.P. Shaw, of Bruton, Somerset, and Lindsey, only daughter of Mr and Mrs L.T. Farrant, of Sidmouth, Devon.

Telephone 071 481 4000

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Telefax 071 782 7827

BIRTHS

BATTERSBY - On August 23rd, to Julia and William, a daughter Hannah, a sister for Madeleine.

BROWN - On September 1st, 1992 to Nicky and John, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

COWPERTHWAIT - On September 8th to Sarah and Lewis, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

CROZIER - On August 11th, to Matthew and Alexandra, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

JEWELL - On September 7th, to Alison and John, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

LEBES - On September 7th, to Rachel and John, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

NEED - On September 5th, to Philip and Jane, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

SHIELDS - On September 9th, to Derby and John, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

SMITH - On September 9th, to Derby and John, a daughter, Victoria Elizabeth.

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DEATHS

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OBITUARIES

WILLIAM HARRINGTON

William J. Harrington, a haematologist who made major discoveries about the basic mechanisms of blood disorders through experiments performed on himself, died at his home in Miami, Florida, on September 4 aged 68. He was born in Norwood, Massachusetts, on September 21, 1923.

IT WAS no ordinary pint of blood that William Harrington transfused into his own arm in 1950, while training as a haematology fellow at Washington University Medical School in St Louis, Missouri. The blood came from a patient suffering from a rare autoimmune disease known as ITP, or idiopathic thrombocytopenic purpura, in which the number of platelets in the blood drops to such a low level that victims can develop black and blue marks from the touch of a feather.

Harrington was trying to prove a theory: that the disease was caused by a factor within the blood itself, and not by a deficiency in the bone marrow which produces platelets. He chose a brave way to make his point. Almost immediately, his platelet count dropped drastically and black and blue marks formed on his skin. His superiors, fearing that he might suffer a stroke or other complications, rushed him to hospital straight away.

But within a week Harrington's blood count returned to normal. His bone marrow was doing its job, and his body was able to overcome the episode. Building on the experiment, he and other researchers were able to prove that ITP was caused in part by antibodies produced against a normal

component of an individual's own platelets. ITP became the first documented autoimmune disease, and Harrington's research career was assured. In 1951, at the age of 28, he became the youngest person ever elected to the American Society of Clinical Investigation.

Harrington continued his research at Washington University and in 1954 became director of its division of haematology. He moved to the University of Miami School of Medicine in 1964, where he founded the Centre for Blood Diseases and developed treatments for sickle-cell anaemia. The centre was later named after him.

For some 25 years Harrington worked to improve medical education in the countries of Latin America, and it was indicative of the range of his prowess that he held honorary appointments from medical schools in Chile, Brazil, Colombia, Panama, and the Dominican Republic. He also worked on disaster relief in underdeveloped countries, and was one of the first doctors to arrive on the scene after the Nicaraguan earthquake of 1972. Indirectly, it was a natural disaster that led to his death. Harrington was known as one of the few doctors in America who still made house calls, and rather than flee from Hurricane Andrew, he remained in Miami to care for his patients. His own home had been left without electricity or running water after the storm, and he died of undetermined causes while trying to repair an emergency generator.

William Harrington is survived by his wife, Mary, three sons and one daughter.

SIR EDWARD SINGLETON

Sir Edward Singleton, who was president of the Law Society in 1974-5 in its 150th anniversary year, died on September 6 aged 71. He was born on April 7, 1921.

AS A solicitor Edward Singleton specialised in construction industry work before becoming increasingly involved with international arbitration, an activity that was ideally suited to his incisive mind and his understanding of human na-



ture. He served on various Law Society committees and in 1974 was made one of its youngest ever presidents. Known throughout his life as Tim, Edward Henry Sibbald Singleton was the youngest son of W. P. Singleton. He was educated at Shrewsbury School and went

up to Brasenose College, Oxford to read law, as befitted a nephew of Lord Justice Singleton.

War, however, had already begun and after one year at Oxford he joined the Fleet Air Arm and was on the first naval group that went to learn to fly in America some six months before Pearl Harbour. He spent most of the war flying Hurricanes and Seafires on operations or as an instructor in the Western Desert, the Mediterranean and the Pacific.

After the war he returned to Oxford for one term to pass the necessary examinations to obtain his degree. He then entered into solicitor's articles and was admitted in July 1949. He practised initially with Richards Butler and then with Macfarlanes where he was a partner from 1953 to 1977. In 1977 he set up on his own and began developing his work with the construction industry and in international arbitration.

Although from the west of England, Tim Singleton had a great love for his adopted country of Suffolk. He had a house at Aldeburgh for nearly 40 years and enjoyed nothing more than sailing, wildfowling and walking the marshes of the River Alde. Cricket was another enduring passion. He played for three years for Shrewsbury.

He is survived by his wife "Peggy", three sons and a daughter.

MERVYN JOHNS

Mervyn Johns, stage and film character actor, died on September 6 aged 93 at Denville Hall, the show business retirement home. He was born in Pembroke on February 18, 1899.

FOR much of his mature career Mervyn Johns suffered, like such contemporaries as Bobby Howes and even Michael Redgrave, from the "father of" syndrome. However distinguished his own performances, he tended always to be tagged as "father of Glynis Johns", who began to be noted when barely in her teens and had become at least a juvenile star by the early 1940s. They appeared together on several occasions early in her career and in the midst of his notably in the film *Halfway House*. For Mervyn Johns it became uncomfortably clear which generation attracted more attention.

Nonetheless, Mervyn Johns could be a formidable actor when given half a chance. He had always worked hard on his technique and, though by nature he seemed most suited to rather gentle, dreamy characters, he learned to be hard and incisive when required, and even proved able to portray domestic tyrants when the opportunity offered. Ironically, since he played a number of doctors, smooth or shady, during his acting career, he originally intended to practise medicine and began studying at the London Hospital. But he soon decided that he was not tough enough for the job and opted for acting instead.

Although he won the Gold Medal and several other awards at RAD, it took him a long time to build up his confidence. After making his first appearance on the London stage in 1923, in a small role in *The Elopement*, he took himself off immediately to South Africa (where Glynis was born towards the end of the year), and spent most of the next decade touring or playing leads (usually comedy) in provincial rep. In



Mervyn Johns as the evangelist in *Diamond City*

particular he had a long run at the Little Theatre, Bristol, where he directed as well as acted and continued to learn every aspect of his craft. He made his first film appearance in *Lady in Danger* in 1934, but otherwise remained in perhaps unwarranted obscurity until he was nearly 40.

The 1940s were his great stage period. In 1939 he played Sir Patrick Cullen in *The Doctor's Dilemma* at the Westminster Theatre, and this proved to be the beginning of a particular association with Shaw, of which later fruits

were his *Shogover* in *Heartbreak House* (much praised) in 1943, and *Doolittle*, on the face of it a much more unlikely role for him, in 1947. He had another signal success taking over from Michael Redgrave as the Duke in Patrick Hamilton's curious drama *The Duke in Darkness* in 1942, and did well in another unlikely role as Jeeter Lester in the long-running, and in its day scandalous, production of *Tobacco Road* at the Playhouse in 1949.

Most of his memorable film roles were also in the 1940s. He was in Hitchcock's last film before his departure for Hollywood, *Jamaica Inn*, and held his own against the over-the-top performance of Charles Laughton.

He was in such distinguished war films as Thorold Dickinson's *Next of Kin* and Cavalcanti's *Went the Day Well?* Most memorable of all, he was in two of the British cinema's most stylish ghost-stories. In *Halfway House*, he and Glynis starred as the otherworldly keepers of a mysterious inn. Even better was *Dead of Night*, Ealing's compendium of uncanny tales in which Johns played the unfortunate architect whose worst dreams become reality.

During the 1950s he did relatively little: nothing on the West End stage between 1952 and 1961, and very few films. The only one of interest being *The Intimate Stranger*, one of the first features Joseph Losey made in Britain when he was on the McCarthy blacklist. In 1961, however, Johns returned not only to the stage, but to the centre of all that was liveliest in the new British theatre, the Royal Court, with a substantial role in *The Keep*, subsequently transferred to the Piccadilly.

But by this time he seemed somewhat disenchanted with Britain, and announced that he was going to settle with his wife in South Africa. When his wife died in 1970 he returned to Britain and was sometimes to be seen, but his heart hardly seemed to be in his work. He retired to the show business home at Denville Hall.

That was not quite the end. At Denville he met another resident, the actress Diana Churchill, then 12 years a widow and confined to a wheelchair with multiple sclerosis. Romance budded, and they were married in 1976. Not only that, but in 1977 they appeared together in an episode of *The Avengers*. It was to be Mervyn Johns's final bow.

He is survived by his wife and by his daughter Glynis.

AIR MARSHAL SIR GEORGE JONES

Air Marshal Sir George Jones, KBE, CBE, CB, DFC, Australia's last surviving first world war ace and architect of his country's Pacific air defence in the second world war, died on August 24 aged 95. He was born in Rushworth, Victoria, on November 22, 1896.



Gallipoli — the battle that is held to have first bound together Australia as a nation. After moving to No 13 Squadron of the Imperial Camel Corps, he joined No 1 Squadron of the fledgling Australian Flying Corps where he qualified as a pilot. He ended the war, aged 22, as a captain with No 4 Squadron, having flown 113 missions and with seven kills. Jones was awarded the DFC for shooting down two German planes over

France in one action. Despite being badly wounded in the back during an attack on German troops, he returned to action late in 1918 to record two further kills before the Armistice.

Following an attempt to settle down as a motor mechanic in Victoria, Jones returned to the RAAF in 1921 as a test and training pilot. He qualified at the RAAF Staff College, Andover, but his urging to develop an Australian aviation industry in the years before the second world war was ignored.

In 1939 he fought another bureaucratic battle against RAAF moves to redirect RAAF air crew to the European theatre, which Jones, then head of RAAF training, saw as weakening defences at home. His appointment as RAAF Chief of Air Staff in 1942 saw the beginning of the turnaround and the crucial decade of change.

His call for Australia to build its own aircraft was finally realised with the construction of the De Havilland Mosquitoes from 1943 and, later, Vampire jet fighters. He was made a CBE in 1942, a CB in 1943, and was knighted in 1953.

Before retiring in 1952, he had commanded the RAAF efforts in the Berlin air lift, Malayan campaign and the Korean War. He also established the Empire Training Scheme in Australia. He was a director of Ansett Transport Industries for 20 years until 1974. In 1988 Jones published his memoirs *From Private to Air Marshal*.

In 1919 Jones married Muriel Stone, who died in 1970. They had two sons, both now dead. And in 1970 he married Gwendoline Bauer, who died in 1980.

Archaeology

Avebury yields further secrets

By NORMAN HAMMOND, ARCHAEOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

ANOTHER huge prehistoric enclosure has been found near Avebury in Wiltshire. Estimated to be 350 metres (1,140ft) long and 250 metres across, the egg-shaped enclosure dates to about 2500 BC.

The discovery follows that of a large double enclosure of two concentric palisades spanning the River Kennet, five miles west of Marlborough and immediately east of the new find. The double enclosure was threatened by a hotel development until Michael Heseltine, then environment secretary, refused permission two years ago.

Like its neighbour, the elliptical enclosure consisted of a foundation trench in which oak posts were set, apparently at intervals of about a metre. The depth of the posts below the surface suggests that they stood at least three metres above ground.

The amount of timber needed for the palisade would have been staggering. Dr Alasdair Whittle said, especially since only oaks with a diameter of a foot or more were used. The

quantities would have been even larger than the estimated 15,000 running metres (50,000 feet) needed for the smaller circular enclosure near by.

Dr Geoffrey Wainwright, who excavated the similar palisaded site at Mount Pleasant near Dorchester, estimated that 364 hectares (900 acres) of forest would have been exploited to get the timber. The figures for the West Kennet site must have been comparable or greater. Since the tree trunks would have been brought from some distance, there would have been significant logistic problems, Dr Whittle said.

Radiocarbon dates suggest that both the circular and the elliptical enclosures were constructed in the late neolithic, between 2800 and 2300 BC. Although the new find may have been in use earlier, and replaced by the double circular structure, this is not certain.

Neither is the function of the palisades: they would have presented a long defensive perimeter, and their location

in a valley bottom, in one case with a stream flowing through the middle, does not suggest fortification. There is quite a lot of domestic debris, including grooved-ware pottery, animal bones and arrowheads, and other flints, but much of it is in apparently ritual contexts.

Three smaller enclosures within the elliptical one, clustered together at its eastern end, present yet another enigma: their circular central features are just small enough to have been roofed buildings, but there is no evidence of this so far.

There is good evidence that the entire area south of Avebury was a ritual landscape, however. Silbury Hill, the largest ancient manmade mound in Europe, lies only a short distance from the enclosures, and the West Kennet Long Barrow is just visible on the brow of an adjacent hill. Both were in use around 2500 BC.

Dr Whittle believes that the West Kennet sites are marginally later than the massive earthworks at Avebury.

VC of soldier who faked death for sale

By JOHN SHAW

A VICTORIA Cross awarded to a man who later faked his own death is expected to make up to £20,000 at Sotheby's in London next Thursday.

Captain Henry Cecil Dudgeon D'Arcy of the Frontier Light Horse was awarded the decoration for trying to save a trooper who had fallen from his mount at the height of Zulu war in South Africa in July 1879.

As the Zulus advanced D'Arcy waited for the man to mount behind him and ride to safety. But his horse kicked off both men. Hurt by the fall, D'Arcy attempted to lift his stunned comrade into the saddle but he did not have the strength and had to gallop away, narrowly escaping the Zulu advance. The fallen man was left behind and his mutilated remains were discovered the following day. The officer received his VC from Lord Wolseley at Pretoria on December 10, 1879 but he resigned his commission "for private reasons" in April 1881.

Malaria and fluke worm

infection led him to seek solace in drink and he subsequently disappeared from a South African mission station in "a state of delirium".

Police later found a body in a cave in the Amatola forest which was assumed to be that of D'Arcy. After his clothes were recognised, he was assumed to have died of exposure and buried beside at King William's Town.

However, a note recently discovered in the Killie Campbell Africana library suggests D'Arcy changed clothes with a dead man he found lying in the snow. Fifty six years later in 1925 a cricketer playing at Newcastle, Natal, met a man whom he recognised from a photograph as D'Arcy. The cricketer confronted the war hero but D'Arcy pleaded with him not to make his identity known as "he wished to remain dead to the world".

David Erskine-Hill, Sotheby's war medal specialist, said yesterday: "It would be fair to say that VC recipients have in the past tried to avoid the inevitable publicity surrounding their gallant deeds."

APPRECIATIONS

Daniel Gorenstein



I WAS saddened to read that Daniel Gorenstein had died. Your obituary notice on September 1 did full justice to a fine mathematician, but it left the somewhat misleading impression that the classification of the finite simple groups was achieved, single-handedly by Gorenstein. Without wishing in any way to detract from his achievement, I believe it should be stressed that this project was a communal effort by many mathematicians, occupying some 10,000 pages and taking more than 20 years.

The starting point was the Feit-Thompson paper in 1963 which answered a question raised by Burnside more than 60 years earlier. Gorenstein's particular achievement in this field (in addition to his studies of specific simple groups) was the very clear and comprehensible exposition of the whole which he gave in the book you mention.

Before turning to groups he had worked in algebraic geometry, where some of his results on plane curves are still used. Some six years later,

after hearing an inspiring course of lectures at Cornell University by a colleague (I. N. Herstein), he changed to group theory.

Galois's letter on the eve of his fatal duel was eight pages (not 60, which is the extent of his collected works). He was the founder or what is now called Galois theory (not of group theory, as you seem to imply).

P. M. Cohn

Jeff Porcaro

FOLLOWING your obituary of Jeff Porcaro (August 25) I would like to add that his enormous achievement as a session drummer should not be overlooked.

Porcaro's presence on countless records of great diversity throughout the 1980s often prompted a musician friend and me to ask one another: "Guess who plays drums on this?" on acquiring another new American album. His ability to carry the flow and pace of a song without becoming intrusive ensured the success of landmark recordings: "The Night Fly" by Donald Fagen, "If That's What It Takes" by

Michael Macdonald and Randy Newman's "Trouble in Paradise". Records which marked the very top of Rock musicianship and which influenced many that followed. Porcaro was extremely economical and fluent but retained that most elusive element of musicianship, "feel". He can be heard at his explosive best on Ivan Neville's overlooked "If My Ancestors Could See Me Now". I believe his last recording was "Human Touch" by Bruce Springsteen; a magnificent final work, I'm sure most drummers would agree. If you want to learn how to play drums, go listen to Jeff.

James Butler

John Marsh

MAY I add a word to your obituary of John Marsh (August 25)?

As director of studies at the British Transport Staff College in the early Seventies, I got to know John Marsh well, as he would lecture there regularly. His usual talk was based on a brilliant speech that he had given to the Royal Society of Arts. It was a keen and lucid observation on our modern life as prescribed, perhaps proscribed, by the effects of industry.

It was accurate then and, sad to say, remains today as a telling reminder that we should consider the wider implications of our industrial policies and activities.

It was a shrewd and perceptive lesson. However, John's unfailing and infectious sense of humour always came to the fore and gave us, and all his listeners, hope for the future and a renewed sense of pro-



portion about the serious business of management in industry. This was matched only by his kindness and generosity. A bright and kindly light has gone.

Peter Newman

SEPT 11 ON THIS DAY 1874

Some inhabitants of Baden thought that public gambling had been fair and above-board while the chance of being cheated was greater at the private tables.

BADEN-BADEN

(From A Holiday Correspondent)

BADEN, Sept 8. One cannot be long in Baden without finding out that, though the public gambling tables have been abolished, high play — sometimes very high play — still goes on night after night. Gambling had got too thoroughly into the Baden blood to be driven out by a few strokes of even legislative pens. The old habits of Baden who played as a matter of course whenever they were here gradually established such an association between being at Baden and playing that the two things seemed to be, doubtless by some occult law of nature, inseparable.

As regards, however, the non-existence of "public roulette tables" in Baden I had myself an experience which makes me somewhat sceptical. A friend offered to take me to one, and, considerably to my astonishment, we went not into any private house or even room, but into the dining hall of one of the hotels there. It was about 11 pm — a late hour for Baden — and when we entered nothing certainly could have been more innocent than the appearance of the hall. It was barely lighted except at the upper end, and its only occupants were two men playing cards at a small table, looking in the dim distance like a couple of belated waiters trying to keep themselves awake until some dissipated guests returned to supper. Another table near them, covered with a white cloth, was evidently the destined supper table. The sudden transformation scene which our entrance wrought certainly seems to me now comic enough.

but I must confess to have felt at the moment that it was almost too sensational, too melodramatic, to be altogether agreeable. A start up from the cards, a whisk of the white cloth, and, before we were halfway up the room the two sleepy waiters were banker and croupier, very wide awake, and bowing courteously from their proper positions. A toy roulette table, which looked like a miniature model of the old Conversation House table, but still was quite big enough to be mischievous. As my friend and I had come in chiefly from curiosity and waited for nothing less than for a duel in the dark with a strange bank, our position was a trying one, for there was certainly a most unhappy mixture of swagger and cowardice in first waltzingly bearing the lion in his den and then, when he showed fight, turning tail. However, we did turn tail, muttering something about "looking in again when there were more people" and when, about half an hour after, we did, we found a group round the toy roulette table.

A few of them were ladies, not "ladies from Paris", but members of the best Baden society, and on our entrance they beat a somewhat precipitate retreat to the lower end of the hall, though soon after having meantime, perhaps, satisfied themselves that we were not agents of the police, they came back to the table and resumed play. The play was not high, nor did it last long — Bone counts were used — possibly as a precautionary measure, as well as for convenience, that money might not be lying about the table — and each counter represented only a thaler, which was scarcely conducive to high play, though there was no limit to the number staked. Everything seemed to me, so far as I could judge, carried on with perfect fairness. There were glasses of iced champagne and cigars handed about for all who would — players and lookers-on alike. Fortunately — or, it may be, unfortunately for the bank — not many of either were consumed, and very little money, it seemed to me, changed hands.

Second-hand life policies go under the hammer

In every recession some businesses thrive, as Tony Dawe discovered when he attended an auction trading in other people's lives in London yesterday

SOMBRE-SUITED and quietly spoken, Guy Enriquez, the auctioneer, had a Dickensian air befitting the senior partner of a business started in Victorian times: the catalogue in varying typefaces on blue paper had hardly altered this century and the setting in the Connaught Rooms also suited another age.

The buyers, however, belonged to today, many of them City slickers equipped with mobile phones and large cheque books, who showed no remorse as they traded in the misfortunes of others.

In a matter of hours, they spent more than £1 million buying second-hand life insurance and endowment policies, mostly from people desperate to raise cash to keep either themselves or their businesses afloat.

The sellers included men in their 50s who could not wait another couple of years for their 15 or 20-year endowment policies to mature and younger men with only one year of their ten-year life insurance policies to run.

The trade in second-hand policies is booming in the recession and yesterday's auction arranged by H. E. Foster & Cranfield attracted 143 lots. It has become the firm's main business but the growth in the size and number of their auctions has been matched by the spread of market-making companies specialising in the private sale and purchase of policies.

Kleinwort Benson has even launched a £30 million fund for people interested in investing in second-hand endowment policies. Simon White, managing director of the company's investment trust, said: "They are a growing investment medium because of the bonuses which accrue when they mature and because of the tax advantages to trustees and those paying capital gains."

The business is encouraged by the low surrender values offered by the insurance companies to people wanting to cash in their policies. Yesterday's auction attracted a few individual buyers, including a farmer and a housewife, but

most of the business was done by market-makers. Vivienne Hay of Gerald Edelman was looking for policies to sell to businessmen in Israel, Switzerland and Lichtenstein, who are keen to invest in the British insurance market.

Once the insured has sold his policy, he naturally loses all rights to it. But the policy remains on his life and should he die before it matures the new owner would benefit. No-one in the Connaught Rooms yesterday seemed to find the idea of foreign businessmen dealing in British lives at all bizarre.

Mary Bramwell was the only person to show any emotion. She spent £90,000 on behalf of a business associate buying two policies on the life of a man who is now 80. "It is rather sad to think of him selling his policies after putting money into them for 20-odd years," she said. "When I first came to these auctions, I didn't like buying somebody else's life insurance but now I realise I am probably helping them."

The lack of sentiment was evident in the manner of Mr Enriquez. He described Lot 45, a £26,000 endowment policy with nine years to run and being sold by a couple in their 50s, as "a substantial policy to get your teeth into". As he tried to push the price of Lot 49 towards £20,000 at the end of the morning, he told bidders: "If you buy this policy, you will enjoy your lunch even more."

Mr Enriquez told *The Times*: "We do not get involved in the personal circumstances. We are here to provide a service and we believe we are helping them because we can generally sell their policies at much more than the surrender value". If his firm does so, it takes one-third of the differential between the surrender value and the selling price.

The highest sum paid yesterday was for an endowment policy for £50,000 payable in 1996. It has already attracted bonuses of £40,500 but the buyer must continue to pay monthly premiums of £320. It sold for £86,000.



Pride of place: adjustments are given to a bronze sculpture of Manjusri, Prince of Wisdom, at the Royal Academy yesterday. It forms part of the exhibition *Wisdom and Compassion: the Sacred Art of Tibet*, opening next Friday. The figure stands beside a twin bodhisattva, or deity, representing compassion. More than 160 paintings, sculptures and tapestries have been assembled from collections in North America, Europe and what was formerly the Soviet Union. The figures are lent by the

Folkens Museum, Stockholm. The exhibition is sponsored by Silhouette Eyewear, Vistech International and Redab (UK) in association with *The Times*.

Owen shocked by carnage

Continued from page 1

what it can and cannot do... "Slowly, persistently, patiently, we will end this conflict. It will take time."

Radislav Jovanovic, the Yugoslav foreign minister and a supporter of Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president, resigned yesterday, after launching a bitter attack on Milan Panic, the prime minister. "I cannot stay in a government which follows a policy that is ever more contrary to the interests of Serbia and the Serbian people," said Mr Jovanovic.

Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN secretary-general, yesterday recommended an enlarged peacekeeping force to escort relief convoys in Bosnia that could reach 7,500 troops and support staff. In a report to the security council he gave no precise numbers but said the current 1,500-strong force in Sarajevo could increase as much as five times, which would mean 6,000 more personnel. He did not recommend any air cover. The security council is expected to adopt a resolution approving his recommendations, which leave open a date for deploying the forces.

In Zagreb, the Croatian foreign ministry confirmed that it had seized arms and ammunition from Iran which were bound for Bosnia. The announcement came as Iran said it would consider sending weapons to the Muslim-led government of Bosnia if diplomatic efforts failed to end the conflict. President Rafsanjani denied that Iran has started smuggling weapons to the Balkans, but he suggested his government would adopt a flexible policy. "This problem should be solved through other means. But if other means are not effective, and they request

arms from Iran, this is a question that we shall consider," he said during a visit to Beijing.

In Belgrade, Mr Jovanovic said in his letter of resignation that Mr Panic's conciliatory policies were "deeply contrary to my understanding of national duty and dignity". Ilija Djukic, the former Yugoslav ambassador to Beijing, is tipped to succeed Mr Jovanovic. However, Ljubisa Radic, a close ally of the prime minister, is already in charge of the Geneva talks for Yugoslavia. The demise of Mr Jovanovic signals a deepening of the political crisis in Belgrade and although Mr Panic has become increasingly popular, the power of Mr Milosevic is not to be underestimated.

Troops endangered, page 7
Roger Boyes, page 12
Leading article, page 13

Four top hospitals faced with closure

Continued from page 1

reforms. The four-man enquiry panel, chaired by Sir Bernard Tomlinson, former chairman of the Northern Regional Health Authority, will suggest which departments in the four hospitals are likely to survive in the market. Where neighbouring hospitals operate similar specialist services, it will recommend amalgamation.

It is known to be impressed by the research done at University College and Middlesex, which has the highest research rating of all the teaching hospitals. It will warn ministers that wholesale closure would risk losing a wealth of skill and experience. But the panel has been unable to look at all services provided in the ten months since the enquiry was estab-

lished by Mr Waldegrave. Detailed work on which departments are to be merged and how it is to be achieved will be left to the task force. It is expected that work on mergers and closures would begin immediately because of the pressing financial problems facing the hospitals.

Arrangements for medical students will have to be made before large scale closures can go ahead. The medical degree course lasts five years and applications are now being taken for next year. It is expected that eight of London's nine medical schools will be consolidated in four groups, focused on Imperial College in west London, University College in north London, St Mary's College in east London and King's College in south London.

£84,000 buys a loaf that's just heavenly

By NICK NUTTALL
TECHNOLOGY
CORRESPONDENT

AMERICA is set to bake the most expensive loaf ever made. More than 200 hundred miles above Earth astronauts on the space shuttle Endeavour will be loading up the yeast, water and flour to make a small white loaf costing more than £84,000.

Assuming the experiment is successful, the historic loaf might make up to 10 sandwiches. With a smear of butter, a sausage, and a smattering of mustard these could cost more than £8,498 and seven pence each.

The experiment, designed by engineers at Spar Aerospace of Montreal in Canada, and which is set to launch on Endeavour tomorrow, has important scientific and social ramifications for a bread-loving nation. Yesterday American space officials privately admitted a long concern that packed lunches may be off on trips to Mars if baking ingredients fail to rise in near zero gravity.

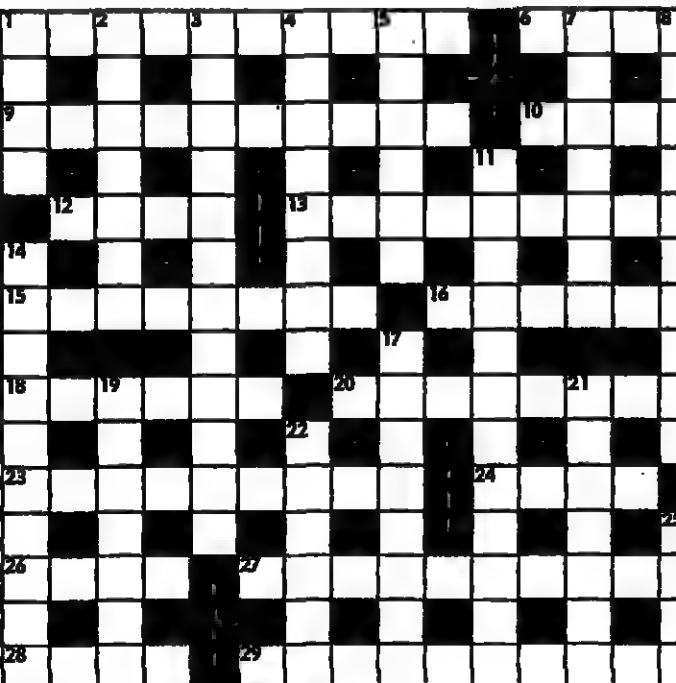
Lise Richer, a spokesman for Spar, said that the loaf had captivated the imagination of many Canadians who had entered a competition inviting people to suggest the most interesting activity that could be carried out in space.

Ingredients for the world's most expensive loaf will be heated to 40°C for 15 minutes, stirred for a further seven minutes, and spend half an hour proving before being cooked at 150°C for up to an hour.

Given the legendary effect of baking aromas on the human saliva glands, Endeavour's seven strong crew might be forgiven for feeling peckish. However, Miss Richer suggested the astronauts would be well advised to resist. "It will have no crust and will be very dry," she said, adding that it was planned to fly the loaf back to Earth where it would star in a press conference in Canada.

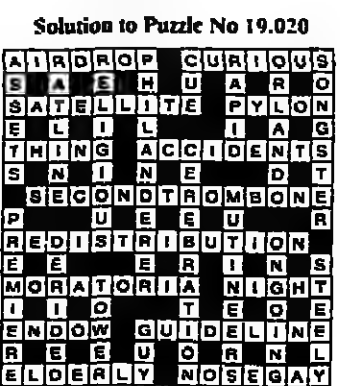
Nasa's decision to allow a mini-bakery on board reflects the domestic theme of the seven-day mission. On board will be Mark Lee, 40, and Jan Davis, 38, who are set to become the first married couple in space. Baking bread is fine, but Nasa has decreed that cavorting between crew members is strictly forbidden.

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,021



- ACROSS**
- Occasionally somebody catches cold to some extent (4,2,1,3).
 - Twice see a bird (4).
 - In old age, bishop follows girl by car (4,6).
 - Be wrong about... (4).
 - Kind of seat found in lots of amphitheatres (4).
 - Discovering uranium missing - it could have been a disaster (4,5).
 - Start to park in front of Judge Jack's house (6).
 - You're told to stick me down (6).
 - Drawback about girl meeting fellow for a drink (8).
 - Common sense could be worth time (6,3).
 - Each is short of five - that's strange (4).

- DOWN**
- Love girl well (4).
 - In disappointment, comfort the cabin (7).
 - Drains immune to change in unseasonably warm weather (6,6).
 - A river bird, jolly familiar (3,2,3).
 - Cancel the jacket for author's first book (6).
 - Agent in trouble hit out on all sides (7).
 - You get sound travelling from it, sound to impress with beauty (6,4).
 - Avoiding familiarity and finally succeeding, learnt maths with difficulty (2,4,6).
 - Koala could be in trouble (2,1,3,4).
 - God overwhelmed by prayer in excess (8).
 - Choose one parent, that's best (7).
 - A small number, it's said, getting weary, abstained (7).
 - Bandage man after blow (6).
 - Make an arrangement when season's over (4).



Concise Crossword, page 9
Life & Times section

WORD WATCH

A daily safari through the language jungle. Which definitions are correct?

By Philip Howard

- LETHE**
a. A dead blow
b. Odin'sraven
c. A river of Hell
REDINGOTE
a. A long overcoat
b. A device
c. To replace in office
KAKEMONO
a. An evil genius
b. A painted scroll
c. A Korean robe
DAPIFER
a. A waiter
b. A pepperpot
c. The gladiator with net and trident

Answers on page 14

	Bank	Bank
Australia \$	2.79	8.39
Austria Sch	13.76	19.10
Belgium Fr	60.35	36.15
Canada \$	2.37	2.47
Denmark Kr	11.35	10.55
Finland Mk	9.85	8.85
France Fr	9.85	9.25
Germany DM	2.82	2.72
Greece Dr	361.00	338.00
Hong Kong \$	15.74	14.74
Ireland Pt	1.10	1.02
Italy Lire	2040.00	2040.00
Japan Yen	236.75	240.75
Netherlands Gld	3.30	3.07
Norway Kr	11.82	10.82
Portugal Esc	200.48	227.00
South Africa R	8.10	8.50
Spain Ptas	166.00	175.00
Sweden Kr	10.85	10.00
Switzerland Fr	2.60	2.42
Turkey Liras	14500.00	13500.00
USA \$	2.06	1.93
Yugoslavia Dr	206	206

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques.

The Fifteenth Book of The Times Crosswords published by Times Books, 77-85, Fulham Palace Road, London W6 8JB, is now on sale at bookshops, price £3.50

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TODAY IN BUSINESS VILLAIN'S ROLE

The Bundesbank has been cast as the villain as a new wave of turmoil sweeps the markets, writes Wolfgang Münchau Page 21

DOLDRUMS

More bad news from British building came as Blue Circle Industries reported profits down 26 per cent at £42.7 million *Tempos, page 18*

HICCUP

Shares in Glaxo, Britain's largest company by stock market value, fell 7p, despite a profit of £1.43 billion *Tempos, page 18*

SOFTER BLOW

Lloyd's of London's exposure to Hurricane Andrew has been put at £450 million, far less than the market had feared *Page 19*

TOMORROW

John Cahill, the chairman of British Aerospace, is a loner who was caned regularly at school and hates being late, Carol Leonard finds

THE POUND

US dollar 1.9780 (+0.0016)
German mark 2.7870 (-0.0011)
Exchange index 92.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT 30 share 1707.4 (+10.7)
FT-SE 100 2340.6 (+13.1)
New York Dow Jones 3281.39 (+10.00)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 18908.47 (+32.92)

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base, 10%
3-month interbank, 10%-10.5%
3-month eligible bills, 9.5%-9.75%
US: Prime Rate, 6%
Federal Funds, 3.5-4%
3-month Treasury Bills, 2.91-2.98%
30-year bonds, 9.9%-9.95%

CURRENCIES

London: New York: £/\$ 1.9770 \$/£ 0.5060
£/DM 1.9382 DM/£ 0.5161
£/Sfr 1.4867 Sfr/£ 0.6729
£/FF 6.4866 FF/£ 0.1542
£/Yen 122.97 Yen/£ 0.0081
£/Index 58.1 Index/£ 0.0172
ECU/£ 1.73648 £/ECU 0.57607
£/SDR 1.340380

GOLD

London Fixing: AM \$341.75 PM \$342.25
Close \$342.00-342.50
£172.50-173.00
New York: COMEX \$342.25-342.75*

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) \$20.35/bbl (\$20.40)

RETAIL PRICES

RPI: 138.8 July 1987-100
* Denotes midday trading price

Generators' shares surge on contract hopes

Coal power deal puts more pits in danger

By Patricia Trehan and Ross Trehan

THE government is to force British Coal to accept a painful compromise over the volume of coal sales and the price paid by National Power and PowerGen, the power generating companies. The deal could mean a knockdown sale of British Coal and an increase in pit closures and job losses ahead of its privatisation next year. The contracts are believed to have been almost finalised. They have been put to all sides and Tim Eggar, the energy minister, is understood to have stated that they represent a fair and reasonable settlement.

As stock market hopes for a favourable settlement grew yesterday, National Power's shares surged 22.5p to 257p, while PowerGen's gained 18.5p to 270p. Coal privatisation hinges on agreement over the contracts as British Coal sells the bulk of its output to the two generators. They will reduce the tonnage they take from this year's 65 million to about 40 million a year for the first two years, falling to 30 million or less in the third year. British Coal will also have to accept a 19 per cent cut in price from 185p a gigajoule to 150p. The tonnage reduction is below even the government's worst case aspirations of 45 million tonnes for the first two years. The output cuts will hit all of Britain's 50 deep mines, increasing likely job losses from 40,000 to 45,000 or more out of a total of 60,000 jobs at British Coal.

Leaked research last year from NIM, Rothschild, the government's privatisation adviser, estimated that coal sales to the generators would fall to 45 million tonnes in the first year, reducing to 32.5 million in the third year. Rothschild thought 18 to 20 pits would stay open; the proposals could mean only 15. The generators argue that imported coal is cheaper and that they have a duty to shareholders to win the best deal. Observers say that by providing the generators with cheaper fuel, the government is effectively increasing the value of its 40 per cent stakes in them ahead of their possible sale next year. The government hopes to introduce a Bill for privatisation in the next session of Parliament and Michael Heseltine, trade secretary, has already made it clear he wants to see an agreement in place before next month's Conservative party conference, where he hopes to reveal sell-off details. The key to the compromise is agreement between the two generators and the 12 regional electricity companies over the volume and price of wholesale electricity for supply to the franchise market, the smaller end of the business that sells to domestic consumers and small businesses. The generators cannot agree to buy the coal until they know they will be able to sell the power produced to the RECs.

More high street gloom from CBI

By Colin Narbrough, Economics Correspondent

RETAIL sales remained disappointingly weak last month and no improvement is expected this year, according to the latest survey by the Confederation of British Industry. The gloomy findings of the distributive trades' survey, published yesterday, appear to rule out any chance of the consumer-led recovery predicted by the government for this year.

pattern of year-on-year falls will continue. Nigel Whitaker, chairman of the CBI distributive trades' panel, said the worsening year-on-year picture reflected the deterioration during the summer in the overall economic situation, which had depressed confidence. Sir Michael Angus, the CBI president, speaking in Glasgow last night, said British industry overall was having a "hard time". He said the CBI knew no quick fix was available. But there were positive steps the government could take to foster recovery.

But the absence of an increase in retail sales is all the more surprising considering that the retailers reported and expected price increases are now at their lowest since the survey began in 1983. Volume sales in shops and stores rose slightly last month compared with dismal figures in July, but business showed a further year-on-year decline in August for the third successive month. This contrasted with the long run of annual increases that preceded the summer. Retailers expect better sales this month than last but the

Mr Whitaker said shops had continued to cut back sharply on orders placed with suppliers as they sought to reduce the build-up in stocks since the beginning of the year. This stockpiling has led through to wholesaling, which reported a significant year-on-year drop in volume sales in August. Major speech, page 1

Pound steadies as banks support lira

By Our Economics Correspondent

THE pound was more comfortable yesterday as attention turned to the lira, forcing the Bank of Italy and the Bundesbank to step in to keep the Italian currency from falling through its lower limit in the exchange-rate mechanism. Large buy orders pushed the pound, which on Wednesday tumbled near its DM2.7780 ERM floor, back to DM2.7950 early yesterday. During the afternoon it dropped back to DM2.7870 at the London close but was slightly firmer against the dollar at \$1.9780.

should now be able to defend present parities until the French referendum. The lira closed at its permitted limit of 765.40 against the mark, despite intervention and Wednesday's economic rescue package. Carlo Ciampi, governor of the Bank of Italy, called German interest rates "excessively high" and said that rebuilding eastern Germany should not prevent lower interest rates in Europe. Eberhard Martin, president of the German banking association, predicted the Bundesbank could cut its key lending rates as early as December. Reluctant villain, page 21

Fears of a devaluation of the weaker ERM currencies persist, although currency analysts believe the central banks



Golden eggs: Dominic Cadbury hopes the new caramel line will be a money spinner

Cadbury drinks to hot summer

By Jonathan Prynn

A SURGE in cold drink sales during hot and sunny May and June helped Cadbury Schweppes push interim pre-tax profits ahead 13 per cent to £126 million. The company said UK beverage volumes were up 6 per cent by the end of June after being unchanged on the previous year as recently as April. An estimated 3.5 million cases of drinks were sold because of the early summer, when temperatures were an average of 4.5 degrees centigrade up on the same period in 1991. However, the benefit to beverage trading profits, up 40 per cent to £30.4 million, was partially offset by a 15 per cent drop in confectionery sales. Dominic Cadbury, the

group chief executive, said the group had also faced tough trading conditions in continental Europe, where trading profits were down 32.1 per cent. The Spanish beverage operations suffered from poor weather, while France was hit by aggressive competition from the cola giants. The American operations had a strong sixth month, with trading profits rising 52 per cent to £16.9 million. Cadbury Schweppes' recent acquisitions, which included Hacks and Victory V, the UK's 70 per cent interest in Piastan, a German chocolate maker, and Agua Mineral, Mexico's largest mineral water company, had no impact on

earnings during the period. Mr Cadbury said that four months after the £184 million Mexican acquisition, "the bottom line is where we would expect it to be at this stage". Adverse currency movements on the US and Australian dollars cut earnings growth from an underlying 2.5 per cent to 1.1 per cent. Mr Cadbury described the outlook as "unforecastable" but said the company had survived the recession "pretty well" so far. It entered the second half "cautious but confident," he said, adding that he expected Christmas to come late again as traders continued to maintain low stock levels. The interim dividend rose 3 per cent to 3.3p.

BTR's earnings fly high on Hawker

By Michael Tate, City Editor

LAST December's £155 billion acquisition of Hawker Siddeley injected fresh life into BTR, the industrial conglomerate, in the first half of this year. An attack on Hawker's costs produced profits of £140 million, before interest and tax. That boosted BTR's total to £645 million, against £569 million previously. After increased interest charges, due to the Hawker deal, BTR's pre-tax profits rose from £512 million to £548 million. Leaving acquisitions aside, and adjusting for businesses that have been sold, would produce a profit figure slightly down on last year, entirely as a result of a downturn in construction activities.

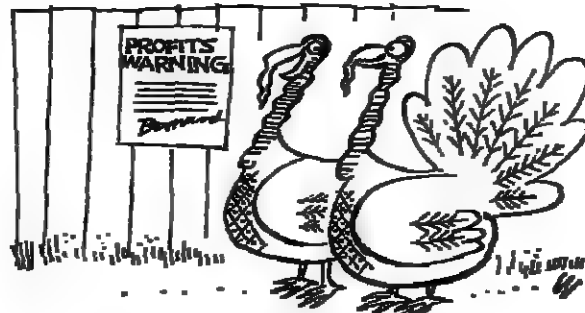
Sir Owen Green, BTR chairman, was scathing about the conditions in which the group has had to operate. "The persisting lack of consumer confidence and the political focus on the extinction of inflation have combined to produce market conditions resembling an economic desert, in which cost reduction processes provide some nurture. An oasis of opportunities for BTR was provided by our acquisitions in 1991." Earnings per share improved from 17.4p to 17.7p and shareholders will receive an interim dividend of 7.75p, against 7.5p last time. *Tempos, page 18*

Not such a bootiful Christmas for Bernard

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

A TURKEY'S fate, as Christmas approaches, is not a happy one. Only a little more cheerful about his prospects is the television turkey king, Bernard Matthews, whose eponymous Norfolk house has hatched its second profit warning this year.

Mr Matthews, who has already accepted that the festive season will be anything but this year, blames his plight on turkey dumping — not, as it might sound, a new and unusual cruel sport akin to dwarf throwing but the practice of mainland European and American producers of undercutting any price on offer from his company. Bernard Matthews saw pre-tax profits tumble from £6.3 million to £2.13 million in the



first 28 weeks of this year, and is forecasting that profits for the full year will be less than half the £13.2 million made in 1991. As a consequence, the dividend is halved to 1p — the first to suffer will be Mr Matthews, who holds 40 per cent of the company. "They have already stepped

up production in France by 14 per cent, and they haven't got a market for a lot of it," he says. "Their attitude is to meet any price we can sell at and discount it quite heavily." Also moving in on Mr Matthews' territory is the ancestral homeland of the bird so memorably castigated

by the *Daily Mirror's* Cassandra as a "feathered swindle". Producers are shipping over large amounts of processed turkey meat from America. Mr Matthews warned shareholders at the May annual meeting that the poultry and meat market was depressed and he now says the situation has deteriorated since then. "Following poor Easter sales we are experiencing extremely difficult trading conditions, especially with sales of whole turkeys and turkey meat," he says. In other words, and not to put too fine a point on it, the market is stuffed. The stock market took this view, the share price sinking to a few pence short of 30p before recovering to 38p, down 1p on the day, as buyers were tempted in. One was the company itself, which bought

in 50,000 shares at 33p each. Mr Matthews is getting his own back on the continentals, however. The aim of the company, which has increasingly been concentrating on other processed foods to wean it away from a dangerous dependence on *Meleagris gallopavo* — the common turkey — is to sell its branded meat and fish products to other EC countries. The prospect of a glut of turkeys roaming Britain, although too frightful for the true gourmet to contemplate, at least raises the prospect that those who enjoy chewing through chicken-flavoured cardboard might have to pay less for their pleasures this Christmas. Not necessarily, growls the turkey king himself. "That's up to the big multiple grocers. That's their business, not ours."

Gillette signs up Parker pens for £300m

By Jon Aspinworth

PARKER Pen is being sold for £300 million to Gillette, the American razor, stationery and toiletries group, to create one of the world's biggest branded pen groups.

The sale will make instant millionaires of the key Parker directors who led a buyout from Manpower six years ago. From an original investment of £300,000, they now have £88 million to share. Gillette, which owns Paper Mate and Waterman, is believed to be paying a premium for Parker in its drive to become the world leader in writing instruments. The three brands combined will give the Boston group a 15 per cent share of the global writing instrument market.

The sale is subject to regulatory approval in France and England and a Monopolies referral is likely. Gillette is offering £217.2 million in cash with a loan note alternative, as well as a special dividend payment, taking the overall value to £300 million.

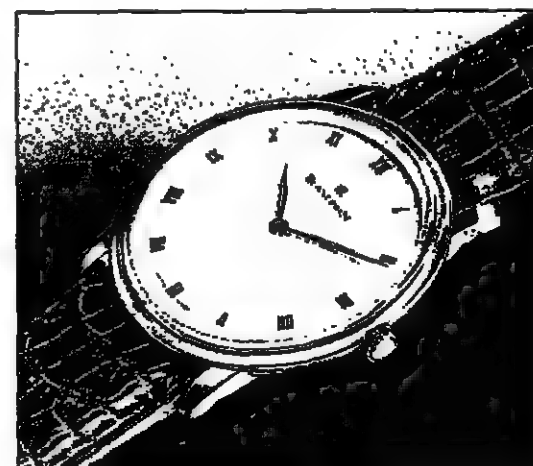
Both Parker and Gillette have the right to pull out of the deal until end-January if any "material" changes come to light, such as a downturn in Parker's profitability.

For Parker's managers, the sale is a case of "fourth time lucky". They have twice tried to float the company. An initial flotation in November 1987 was called off after the October crash and a second attempt in June 1988 was abandoned because the market "did not feel right". Subsequent talks about a possible sale to Pentland, the sports shoe group, for about £180 million, were abandoned in December 1988.

A team of institutional investors, including Schroder Ventures and Electra Investment Trust, put up £25.7 million to help buy Parker in January 1986, with the management investing £300,000. The management's stake is now worth about £88 million, to be shared between about 40 people. The main beneficiaries are Jacques Margy, chairman and chief executive, Robert Barnsley, finance director, Peter Kibble and Malcolm Troak. All are long-serving employees.

While best known for razors and shaving products, Gillette also owns Braun shavers and blenders, Oral-B toothbrushes and Liquid Paper correction fluid.

BLANCPAIN



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TEMPUS

Glaxo close to curing Zantac dependency

GLAXO has risen to become Britain's largest company in stock market value terms on the back of one product — the Zantac ulcer treatment, which was responsible for £1.8 billion out of £4.1 billion in group sales in the year to end-June.

While anxious to point out that Zantac sales were still growing at 13 per cent, Glaxo was just as keen to draw attention to the three new drugs that comprised 9 per cent of sales.

Glaxo sold £363 million worth over the year of Zofran, an anti-nauseant, Serevent, an asthma drug and Imigran, a migraine treatment. Zofran is available in every big market except Japan, but Serevent and Imigran are still going through the approval process in several countries, notably America, and so still have large sales potential. Brokers estimate that in 1995 Imigran could have sales of anywhere between £400 million and £1.5 billion.

The patent for Zantac's primitive form runs out in 1995 but the patent for the form actually taken by patients does not run out until the year 2001-2. The City would not be surprised, however, at limited generic competition to Zantac from 1995 onwards before full competition in the year 2002.

Meanwhile, Glaxo is in the best of financial health, raising pre-tax profits by 11 per cent to £1.43 billion in the year to end-June. Exchange rates helped Glaxo to the tune of £55 million at the trading profit level, up 17 per cent to £1.29 billion.

But falling interest rates cut earnings from the company's cash pile from £179 million to £140 million. The cash pile grew 10 per cent to £1.33 billion during the year, despite another big outlay of £595 million on research and development, up £120 million, and £566 million of capital expenditure.

The share price dipped 7p to 746p, putting the shares on an historic multiple of 21.7 and an historic yield of three.

The full-year dividend was increased by 21 per cent to 17p a share.

For this year, analysts expect pre-tax profits of £1.69 billion and a similar increase in the dividend to more than 20p a share. That forecast assumes a pound-dollar exchange rate of \$1.75. A rate of \$2 brings the



All smiles: Sir Paul (right) with John Hignett, managing director (finance). They announced an 11% rise yesterday

expectations down to £1.6 billion.

Hold the shares for further excitement. Long-term holders will be interested in Sir Paul Girolami's observation that yesterday's profit and sales improvement matched the total profits and sales achieved just nine years ago.

BTR

RARELY in its illustrious past will Hawker Siddeley have been compared to an oasis, but the eagerness of BTR's management to seize an opportunity to forget the recession, and concentrate again on what it does best, is understandable.

To date, Hawker, acquired just five days before the end of BTR's last financial year, has been something of a mixed blessing, adding about £140 million to the pre-interest profit line, but restricting the group's progress in improving its balance sheet.

The additional contract and property provisions deemed necessary now that BTR's

number-crunchers have had more time to study the books, have cost the group seven points on its gearing level.

With another four points lost due to the weakness in the Australian and American dollars, the reduction in the debt ratio from 89 to 79 per cent looks all the more creditable.

Much of the improvement in the Hawker performance arises from BTR's fierce attack on the acquisition's debt or levels, which were averaging 100 days against BTR's 50, and there appears to be scope for further improvement.

The group as a whole has squeezed £70 million of additional profit from increased productivity and efficiency, to lift pre-tax profits for the first half of 1992 from £512 million to £548 million. Strip out Hawker and adjust for disposals like Pretty Polly, and last year, but earnings per share on the capital enlarged by the Hawker issue have improved, from 17.4p to 17.7p.

Given the "economic

desert" in which it was forced to operate, this was a performance guaranteed to impress the market, and to encourage analysts looking for more than £1 billion pre-tax this year. All the same, Sir Owen Green's remarks suggest the strain may be beginning to tell. BTR's British markets wallow in recession. American recovery remains slow and Australian demand is still weak. And the dollar's decline will have a greater bearing on the profit and loss account in the second half.

The interim dividend hike, by no means a foregone conclusion, underlined the confidence of a boardroom that will tolerate nothing but success, however, and the 426p share price, suggesting a prospective multiple of over 14, is more than justified.

Blue Circle

THE recession in building must be truly disastrous if even the cement producers, that cosy group of three, are suffering. While Rugby

Group produced a respectable performance this week, Blue Circle Industries, the biggest player, can offer little but gloom from its core cement operations at the interim stage, and few prospects elsewhere for the rest of the year.

BCT's shares dropped 4p to a new low of 130p, before recovering to overnight levels, on news of pre-tax profits down from £57.5 million to £42.7 million. The damage came from the British cement side, where operating profits fell from £20.4 million to £12.3 million after exceptional rationalisation costs of £3.6 million.

British cement volumes fell 10 per cent, with a similar performance expected in the second half and not much more in 1993, even if there is an upturn in construction towards the end of that year. BCT's plants are running at just 75 per cent capacity.

There was some recovery in America and Chile was strong, but Malaysia suffered some interruption in supplies. Home products, with no

contribution from the French Celsius operation, acquired at the end of the first half, were largely unchanged on last time. The British heating market was weak, with consequent erosion of margins, while aggressive competition from Caradon and Spring Ram depressed the bathroom products side. The lawn-mower business is still for sale. The Italian Ceramica Dolomite operation bucked the trend by gaining market share.

Since the £241 million cash call that funded the Celsius buy, BCI has net debt of £190 million and 27 per cent gearing, set for a modest rise by the year-end. Neither home products nor cement can expect much of an upturn, although the group is well hedged against currency movements.

A maintained if uncovered dividend was promised for this year at the time of the rights issue, giving a prospective yield of 11.2 per cent, but a cut next year looks inevitable. Jamie Stevenson at Kilmort Besson is looking for £102 million pre-tax, putting the shares on a forward earnings multiple of more than 15. Far too early to chase.

Cadbury Schweppes

THERE can be little doubt that Cadbury Schweppes is a classy act. A steady stream of acquisitions has given the group impressive global reach for a company of its size.

While it is still early days for the latest venture — the £184 million acquisition of Mexico's largest mineral water company — the early indications look encouraging. There are a few clouds on the horizon, not least those that gave Britain such a damp summer, which depressed cold drink sales.

Currency movements are also acting against the company and the outlook for the key Christmas period is not sparkling. However, taxable profits for the full year could easily reach £340 million, up about 8 per cent.

The forward multiple of 15 means the shares are on the pricey side but the fundamental qualities of the stock makes it attractive during any periods of weakness.

Exchequer Levy saving boosts LWT interims

LWT (Holdings), the London weekend ITV contractor, lifted pre-tax profits by 41 per cent to £13.7 million in the half-year to June 30, helped by a £2.7 million saving on the Exchequer Levy. An interim dividend of 1.969p on the preferred shares has already been paid. Despite difficult trading conditions, LWT managed an 8.7 per cent rise in net advertising revenue, and margins on that revenue were maintained at 23.3 per cent.

Christopher Bland, the chief executive, said he expected a satisfactory result for the year, although it remained difficult to predict revenues in present market conditions. The half-time figures reflected higher advertising revenue and other income and tight control of costs, he said. During the new franchise period, starting January 1, the Exchequer Levy will be replaced by payments of 11 per cent of advertising revenue and LWT's relatively low cash bid of £7.6 million.

J Bibby cash call

J BIBBY & Sons, the industrial and agricultural group, is raising £35.6 million through a one-for-four rights issue of new shares. Proceeds will be used to reduce borrowings incurred in the acquisition of Finanzauto, Spain's principal distributor of Caterpillar earth-moving equipment. Barlow Rand, the South African group, will take up its full entitlement in respect of its 78.9 per cent stake in Bibby. New shares are being offered at 115p. Existing shares fell 14p to 122p. Bibby has pledged to maintain the final dividend at 6.9p a share for the year to September 26, making an unchanged total of 9.75p, despite a deterioration in trading conditions.

Bodycote ahead

BODYCOTE International, the metals treatment group, lifted pre-tax profits from £5.52 million to £6.4 million in the six months to end-June. The results included a £600,000 contribution from IMT Inc., bought in March. The interim payout is 3.75p (3.5p), on earnings of 14.5p (13.4p) a share. The company said all divisions traded satisfactorily, increasing turnover and profits. The metal technology division, which accounts for 62 per cent of group profits, is expected to be the main source of growth. Turnover was £37.33 million (£32.6 million) and operating profits £6.5 million (£5.5 million).

Indian deal for B Gas

BRITISH Gas has been chosen by the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) to begin exclusive negotiations to establish a joint venture company to supply natural gas in Bombay. British Gas's partners will be GAIL and the Maharashtra state government. Total investment in the venture will be \$70 million over six years. British Gas is negotiating to take an equity stake of 35 per cent. The project will use indigenous gas from the Bombay High and other western offshore fields, and will involve the establishment of a gas distribution network to service 600,000 customers.

O&Y asks for time

OLYMPIA & York Developments has asked an American bankruptcy court to extend the deadline for submission of a reorganisation plan until January 4, 1993, according to court papers. A court hearing on the request is scheduled for October 1 before Judge James Garrity. Olympia & York will also ask a bankruptcy court in Ontario, Canada, for a two-month extension of its protection from creditors, until December 30. The extension would allow the company more time to negotiate with creditors on the C\$8.7 billion (£3.6 billion) of debt on its Canadian assets.

AMP secures loan

AMP Asset Management, the Australian financial group, has raised £290 million via a syndicated loan facility to refinance short-term debt incurred by the purchase of Pearl Assurance in 1989. The transaction — the largest British syndicated facility this year — was arranged by Fuji Bank and comprises a £140 million revolving credit facility and a £150 million commercial paper backstop facility. The latter supports a £300 million sterling commercial paper programme, again the largest this year. NatWest Capital Markets will act as main dealer with BZW an additional dealer.

Ocean takes a drop

PRE-TAX profits at Ocean Group, the freight handling and marine services group, fell 10 per cent to £20.8 million in the first half of the year. Earnings fell to 9.4p (11.8p) and the interim dividend is held at 4.71p. Sales rose to £653 million (£629 million) but costs rose to £630 million (£603 million). The group said "difficult trading conditions persist in many of our markets and we do not expect any widespread upturn in the short term. The weakening of the American dollar is also having an adverse impact". The shares rose 2p to 189p.

Rathbone buys rival

RATHBONE Brothers, a Liverpool private bank and asset management group, is buying Hiltre Investment Management, a local rival, for £1.31 million in shares. The acquisition will boost Rathbone's funds under management by £80 million to more than £780 million. The bank, which celebrates its 250th anniversary this year, raised pre-tax profits by 24 per cent to £2.02 million in the first half, and is boosting its interim dividend by a 68p to 1.5p. Oliver Stanley, chairman, said all the bank's departments held or increased profits.

RTZ HALF YEAR RESULTS

	FIRST HALF '92 Unaudited	FIRST HALF '91 Unaudited
Net attributable profit (after tax and minorities)	£158m	£154m
Earnings per share	15.8p	15.6p
Interim dividend (net)	6.0p	6.0p

- Volume benefits and tight cost control offset 7 per cent fall in metal prices.
- New projects boost copper, gold and coal production.
- Operating cash flow £297 million.
- Gearing reduced to 25 per cent.

Sir Derek Birkin, RTZ Chairman, commented:

"We are determined to achieve the benefits from our continuing, substantial investment in world class projects and to sustain the competitive advantages of our existing assets."

RTZ

Bringing out the best in the world

The full interim statement is being posted to shareholders. Copies are available from
The RTZ Corporation PLC, 1 Redcliff Street, Bristol BS1 6NT

THE RTZ CORPORATION PLC, 6 ST JAMES'S SQUARE, LONDON SW1Y 4LD.

Australian losses halve Amec profit

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

A DISASTROUS performance in Australia, where losses of £12.3 million were incurred, sent pre-tax profits at Amec, the engineer and contractor, tumbling from £21.9 million to £10.6 million in the half year to June 30.

Fast-diminishing cash reserves have required a halving of the interim dividend to 2p, and Sir Alan Cockshaw, the chairman, said a similar reduction could be expected at the final stage "unless there is an even further significant deterioration in the market". Even the half-time payout is uncovered, requiring £2.5 million from reserves.

Amec shares fell 9p to a new low of 58p.

Sir Alan said prospects in Britain were not good, and there was no indication of any improvement in Australia, America and Europe. "In Australia the market has really dived off the end of a cliff."

Amec has five large contracts in Sidney and Melbourne that have been hit by rising costs, and extracting payment from clients has become more difficult. The company lost almost £6 million at the operating level and took a £5.5 million bad debt provision relating to money unpaid that might be recovered.

Australia is likely to break even in the second half and no further provisions are expected. Progress in heavy mechanical, electrical and civil engineering offset a downturn in building.

Amec, which raised £111 million in a rights issue last year, is left with less than £10 million in the bank at the half-way stage after paying off existing borrowings and spending on acquisitions. Sir Alan said he expected this cash position to remain steady or improve slightly by the end of the year.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

BEATTIE (JAMES) (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.78m (£2.37m)
EPS: 2.51p (3.4p)
Div: 1.4p (1.4p)

BR. MOHAIH (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.02m (£1.2m)
EPS: 5.22p (6.05p)
Div: 1.4p (1.4p)

EMISS (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.1m (£1.3m)
EPS: 0.6p (0.6p)
Div: Nil (0.65p)

ERITH (Int)
Pre-tax: £229,000 loss
EPS: 0.34p loss
Div: 0.35p (1.3p)

FERRUM HLDGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £424,000
EPS: 0.97p (3.82p)
Div: 1.1p (1.1p)

GOWRINGS (Int)
Pre-tax: £172,000
EPS: 1.62p (5.9p loss)
Div: 1p (1p)

HALL ENGINEERING (Int)
Pre-tax: £1.55m (£1.16m)
EPS: 2.27p (2.69p)
Div: 3.3p (3.3p)

INT. BUSINESS COMM
Pre-tax: (Int) £572,000
EPS: 0.2p (1.9p loss)
Div: Nil (nil)

LON. FORFAITING (Int)
Pre-tax: £8.42m (£6.8m)
EPS: 8.41p (5.02p)
Div: 2.9p (2.9p)

Sales rose from £32.9m to £35.5m but operating profits fell from £980,000 to £725,000. Trading pressures remain

Trading remains difficult in textile activities because of poor consumer demand but engineering activities have improved

Turnover slipped from £73.5m to £68.3m but interest charges were reduced from £2.4m to £1.9m. Company remains cautious

Previous interim profit was £356,000 and earnings were 0.55p. Return to profit depends on recovery in housing market

Last time's interim profit was £1.4m. Turnover fell from £24m to £19.2m. Second half expected to be difficult

Previous interim loss was £531,000. Profit included £170,000 surplus from property sales. "K" reg car sales encouraging so far

Operating profits were down from £3.71m to £3.11m but interest charges were reduced from £2.55m to £1.58m

Last time there was a loss £2.44m. Operating profit rose 50 per cent to £3.3m on turnover unchanged at £27.5m, against £27.9m

Trading income rose from £7.9m to £9.2m and borrowings were further reduced, cutting interest charges from £2.2m to £1.9m

PCT GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £925,023
EPS: 7p (7.6p)
Div: 2.5p (2.5p)

PENDRAGON (Int)
Pre-tax: £2.17m (£2m)
EPS: 5p (5.9p)
Div: 2.2p (2p)

REECE (Int)
Pre-tax: £183,000 loss
EPS: 0.14p loss
Div: Nil (nil)

ROBINSON BROS (Int)
Pre-tax: £736,000
EPS: 25p (25p)
Div: Nil (nil)

SEMA GROUP (Int)
Pre-tax: £27.73m (£8.8m)
EPS: 5.3p (4.7p)
Div: 1.1p (1p)

SIRDAR (Fin)
Pre-tax: £5.05m (£4.61m)
EPS: 5.85p (5.28p)
Div: 5.15p (5.15p)

SEVERFIELD-REEVE (Int)
Pre-tax: £396,000 loss
EPS: 2.65p loss
Div: Nil (1p)

PORVAIR (Int)
Pre-tax: £758,000
EPS: 4p (4p)
Div: 1.2p (1.1p)

TLS (Int)
Pre-tax: £77,000 loss
EPS: 0.5p loss
Div: Nil (nil)

Acquisitions lifted turnover and profits. Further acquisitions are being considered. Directors regard short-term future with caution

Turnover rose from £77m to £101.2m and operating profits from £2.72m to £3.2m. New car sales in August were lower than expected

Previous interim profit was £540,000 and earnings were 0.33p. Working capital is being reduced with emphasis on stock reduction

Last year's interim profit was £758,000. Current trading described as fitful and a weaker second half is in prospect

Retained profits boosted by sale of Sotres for £16.4m, eliminating net debt. No sign of recovery in trading

Turnover was £52.03m, against £53.5m, and operating profits were £5.8m, up from £5.4m. Trading remains difficult

Record results achieved on strong export sales. Interest charges declined following rights issue. Further progress likely in 2nd half

Losses reduced from £267,000 last time. Activities rationalised at Wrexham and Salford. Rights issue completed in July

Demise of spiral limits hurricane losses at Lloyd's

By JONATHAN PEYNN, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

THE total exposure of Lloyd's to claims resulting from Hurricane Andrew will not exceed £450 million, far below the losses the market suffered as a result of Hurricane Hugo in 1989.

George Lloyd-Roberts, chairman of the Lloyd's Non-Marine Association, revealed the figure yesterday, two weeks after the storm over Florida and the Gulf of Mexico.

The Lloyd's market's relatively low share of the total £7 billion to £8 billion (£3.5 billion to £4 billion) insured loss reflects fundamental changes in global catastrophe reinsurance resulting from the London market's large losses

in recent years. "The lessons of Hurricane Hugo were quickly learned," Mr Lloyd-Roberts said.

Hurricane Hugo resulted in smaller total losses than Hurricane Andrew. Three years ago, however, the London market, and Lloyd's in particular, provided far higher levels of reinsurance cover for American insurers. This was concentrated in the now defunct LMX spiral, resulting in huge personal losses for thousands of Lloyd's names.

Ironically, the complicated structure of the spiral means that losses resulting from Hurricane Andrew will be known long before the final outcome

on Hurricane Hugo. American insurers are now having to retain far larger proportions of their exposures on their own books and any reinsurance cover taken out costs them many times 1989 rates.

Two big American insurers, All State and State Farm, have been particularly hard hit by the latest hurricane. Their losses may be big enough to push up notoriously stubborn American premium rates and will certainly make catastrophe reinsurance cover even more expensive.

The American insurance industry has about \$6 billion of reinsurance cover worldwide. Between 20 and 30 per cent of it is placed in London, about half of that at Lloyd's.

Even if the total loss to Lloyd's reaches the top estimate of £450 million, it will be spread more evenly around the market than before because of the collapse of the LMX spiral.

By Wednesday, the London market had paid out \$152 million on Hurricane Andrew. Lloyd's accounted for 48 per cent of that. Outstanding claims on top of that figure have reached \$633 million. The Lloyd's market's share of paid and outstanding claims is 31 per cent.

Mr Lloyd-Roberts said most losses were on the non-marine side: the marine market had escaped relatively unscathed. "There is a general feeling among practitioners in the marine market that what they have suffered is a miracle," he said.

Two key reviews of the losses suffered by LMX syndicates between 1988 and 1990 are likely to be published within the next few weeks, Lloyd's said yesterday. The reports, into the Feltrim and Gooda Walker syndicates, are long overdue.

The report on Feltrim's losses, which was compiled by a panel chaired by Sir Patrick Neill, QC, was originally scheduled for publication in October last year. Many names are highly critical of the lengthy overruns.

Reduced costs help RTZ to edge ahead

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

RTZ Corporation, the international mining group, increased profits in the first half of the year despite poor conditions in world markets, through a combination of £55 million cost reductions, saving on interest charges and increased production from new mine projects.

The group does not expect market conditions to improve substantially either in the second half of this year or in 1993, due to the slow pace of world recovery.

Net attributable profit for the six months to end June edged up 3 per cent to £158 million. This does not, however, include the £30 million net shortfall on the proceeds of selling its 51 per cent stake in Rio Algom at the end of the period, which is charged as an extraordinary item.

The interim dividend is maintained at 6p from earnings up 1 per cent to 15.8p per share. The results were well up to City forecasts and lifted RTZ shares 12p to 510p.

Pre-tax profit rose 3 per cent to £295 million on turnover

virtually unchanged at £2.27 billion. Robert Wilson, the chief executive, said lower metal and mineral prices had cost £30 million, offset by increased production worth £25 million. This came mainly from the Bingham Canyon copper and gold mine in America, where capacity was expanded, from RTZ's share of the Escondida copper mine in Chile, which came fully on stream, and from the first contribution of the rich but erratic Kelian gold mine in Indonesia.

There were few net currency effects in the first half but subsequent weakness of the American dollar could have a modest negative effect. Net debt fell from £759 million to £683 million over the six months, reducing loan gearing to 25 per cent.

Sir Derek Birkin, the chairman, said the long recession was bringing the price of quality assets down to levels that RTZ might consider paying.

Comment, page 21



Flagship store: Neville Bain and Fiona Harrison with part of the autumn collection at a new Viyella shop in Brompton Road, London

Tootal helps Coats Viyella to 10% increase

By NEIL BENNETT

BENEFITS from last year's takeover of Tootal helped Coats Viyella, the textiles group, increase pre-tax profits 10 per cent to £52.9 million in the first half of the year, despite recession and a collapse in profits in Brazil.

Cost savings from the merger and £7.8 million in property disposal gains offset reorganisation costs and an 87 per cent rise in the interest charge to

£19.6 million. Earnings per share remained steady at 4.3p and the half-year dividend is being held at 3p.

Coats' sales rose 17 per cent to £1.02 billion due to the addition of Tootal, which was only included for one month in the previous interim figures. Like-for-like turnover fell 2 per cent to £69.2 million as the benefits of the reorganisation filtered through. Coats slumped to a £700,000 loss in

South America (£6 million profit). Neville Bain, chief executive, said conditions in the country were still difficult. The problems in Brazil worried City analysts who downgraded their full-year forecasts. They were also concerned that there were more than £350 million of debts at the half year. Russell Walls, finance director, said the group hoped to reduce this to about £260 million by the year end. Coats' star performer was its fashion

retail division, which runs the Jaeger and Viyella shops. Operating profits leapt from £100,000 to £3 million, despite a slight fall in sales, under the management of Fiona Harrison, chief executive.

Like-for-like profits rose 27 per cent to £10.7 million at Dynacast, the engineering division.

In the past year, Coats has shed 7,000 staff, including 3,000 in Britain and 1,000 in Brazil.

Ofgas chief joins MAI board

By ANGELA MACKEY

SIR James McKinnon, director general of the Office of Gas Supply (Ofgas) has joined the board of MAI, the media services group. Sir James's appointment is believed to be one of the first for a regulator still in office.

Sir James, 62, is also on the board of Scotia, a private pharmaceuticals company, and acts as a consultant to the World Bank, the Polish government on energy issues, and the Argentine government on privatisation.

He was finance director of Imperial Tobacco until 1986 when the company was taken over by Hanson. He then joined Ofgas, where he earns

£62,000. There is no precedent to deter a regulator appointed by statute from accepting a non-executive directorship. However, the move is an unusual one.

Sir James, 62, said he felt comfortable accepting the position. He added yesterday: "There is no conflict of interest and I am sure that I am capable of the workload. It is a matter of starting to reposition myself in the market in preparation for my leaving Ofgas in 1994. In any event, the department of trade cleared my appointment to MAI's board."

The issue of gas services was referred to the monopolies

and mergers commission earlier this year.

MAI's two other non-executive directors earn between £5,000 and £10,000 for their services, according to the company's 1991 annual report.

A spokesman for Fronsed, which operates a register of non-executive directors, said there was nothing to prevent a regulator joining a board, as long as there was no conflict of interest. He added: "It is likely that Sir James's prior expertise is what the company is seeking."

Sir James also sits on the Financial Review Panel, which adjudicates on matters related to City ethics.

AIB axes 220 jobs in £8m cost-cutting move

By NEIL BENNETT, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

AIB Group, the leading Irish bank, is cutting 220 staff from its loss-making British division in an effort to reduce costs. The bank is also pulling out of asset finance and central consumer loans and will concentrate on its core branch operations.

AIB is cutting 150 jobs from its central support staff in Uxbridge in Middlesex, 60 from its chain of 35 branches in England and 10 from other operations. The cuts will in-

clude compulsory redundancies in the support operations, and come after the bank already shed 200 employees through natural wastage in the last two years.

The losses follow persistent losses from the British business. In the year to end-March, the division lost £147 million (£43 million) compared with a £165 million loss in 1991. The cutbacks, costing £6 million, will save an estimated £8 million a year.

Booker down at half-time

By MICHAEL TATE, CITY EDITOR

THRIFTER eating-out habits are starting to bite at Booker, the food distribution group, and pre-tax profits eased from £32.9 million to £32.6 million in the 24 weeks to June 13.

Booker, which supplies establishments ranging from top restaurants to lunchtime sandwich shops, says there has been no decline in the volume of food consumed away from the home, but Jonathan Taylor, the chief executive, said consumers were "buying sandwiches now when they might have eaten in a restaurant before". He is confident that the trend towards eating out will resume once recession ends.

Food distribution profits dipped from £15.5 million to £12.7 million.

The lower profits have been struck after undisclosed provisions for bad debts and for closures and other rationalisation costs. The decline in the dollar in the first half, when Booker normally earns a bigger proportion of its profits in America, reduced profits by £1.6 million.

Earnings slipped from 11.56p to 11.34p a share, but the interim dividend is held at 7.5p. Net debt, traditionally high in the summer, improved by £10 million to £194 million. Mr Taylor says gearing will continue to improve.

As determined as BTR



1992 Half Year Results

	First half 1992	First half 1991
Sales	£4,310m	£3,228m
Profit before tax	£548m	£512m
Earnings per share	17.7p	17.4p
Dividend per share	7.75p	7.5p

BTR

FOR YOUR COPY OF BTR'S 1992 INTERIM ACCOUNTS WRITE TO BTR plc, SILVERTOWN HOUSE, VINCENT SQUARE, LONDON SW1P 2PL. TELEPHONE: 071-834 3848



GOVERNO DE SÃO PAULO
CONSTRUINDO UM FUTURO MELHOR

FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE INVITATION TO BID 8880/92

ELECTROMECHANICAL EQUIPMENT
INTENDED FOR CANOAS I AND CANOAS II
HYDROELECTRIC POWER PLANTS

The date for the receipt of the documentation and bids was postponed to October 30, 1992 at 2 p.m., and the address changed to Alameda Santos, 2447, 1º andar, Auditório da Fundação CESP - São Paulo, SP - Brazil. Other conditions remain unchanged.

Administrative Directorate
Companhia Aberta
C.G.C. 86.833.603/0001-78



Harsh deal for British Coal

Harsh contracts between British Coal and the main power generators might be welcomed if they were likely to bring cheaper electricity. Politicians will doubtless claim just that and National Power and PowerGen may not contradict them. Yet that is not the true story. In reality, deep coal mines would be sacrificed to bail out the rash of second round gas-fired power stations, some of them linked to power distributors, that did not sign their contracts at such advantageous prices as those early in the queue. These threatened to squeeze out coal-fired stations that could deliver cheaper power. Low coal contract prices combined with rapidly reducing quantities will remove the threat from National Power and PowerGen while appearing to increase competition.

At the other end of the spectrum, electricity prices are being held up, to the detriment of British industry, by the statutory subsidy to nuclear power, which is even now dreaming of further expansion. For the government, such contracts would clear the way for the sale of its remaining 40 per cent of the two big generators at the expense of the residual value of British Coal. Not that this should be, or indeed is, the main consideration in Whitehall. Such manoeuvres seem to hark back to older political priorities, when miners could hold the nation to ransom and power sources needed to be diversified through the nuclear option. The long-fought battle with the National Union of Mineworkers was surely wasted if it merely allowed the government to close most of the industry instead of saving it and protecting the consumer.

The nation is not served by maintaining an uneconomically large coal industry at the expense of consumers. By the same token, closing mines with a sound long-term future at the expense of high electricity prices and higher imports makes even less sense with a high fixed exchange rate.

RTZ on the prowl

Britain's biggest mineral group has been biding its time on possible investment in British coal until the contract issue is determined. RTZ seems unlikely to be rushing forward, unless it can pick the plums. The group is certainly in a strong position to buy if it wished. Its wide portfolio of metals and minerals, which majors on copper but ranges through coal, iron and aluminium to industrial minerals such as borax and talc, is combined with a wide geographical spread. This did not help much last year but is now showing its defensive virtues, not least in minimising the impact of currency gyrations and keeping cash flow healthy. Even dollar weakness, the greatest threat, is offset by heavy dollar debt, offset by nearly £500 million cash in sterling. Given the parlous state of some other mining ventures, this could be RTZ's opportunity to buy.

Sterling cash has been used to minimise unrelieved advance corporation tax since RTZ realised that keeping UK assets that did not fit its commercial strategy could prove an expensive mistake. Yet a suitable British acquisition would have the added attraction of saving unrelieved ACT of about £12 million in the first half alone. Something like English China Clays, which operates in similar markets to some of RTZ's, might fit the bill better than coal.

The shares could do with a little excitement. Profits should stage a modest recovery for the year but the dividend could stand pat again unless there are definite signs of market improvements by the spring. At least low American interest rates have brought speculative investment to help metal prices recover. Assuming no dividend rise, the shares at 510p would yield 5.1 per cent and sell at 15 times likely 1992 earnings of about 34p. Quality does not come cheap.

Wolfgang Münchau
says Germany's central
bank did not seek, or
want, its pivotal role in
Europe's present
currency contortions

The last thing a fragile international economy needs at the moment is a financial war fought by central banks on the unseemly battlefield of foreign exchange dealing rooms. The turmoil in financial markets, the panic over France's referendum on the Maastricht treaty and the general state of Europe's economies, make a perfect breeding ground for such belligerence.

The enemy is not difficult to spot. Whether people campaign for the Maastricht treaty, or whether they campaign against it, whether they are socialist or conservative, there is one thing they all seem to agree on: that Germany is the villain, and the Bundesbank the ringleader.

Such sentiments are an understandable response to the effects of misguided German economic policy for the rest of Europe, however unintended these effects may be. The Italian government has just proposed something akin to a state of emergency in order to get to grips with its economy. Sweden has put up very short-term interest rates to 75 per cent to convince the markets it is not about to join in a bout of Scandinavian devaluations. The French appear to be having second thoughts on the single currency, which was their own idea in the first place.

And the British government looks as if it has already given up on its economy, having nailed its colours to the ERM mast, almost as a matter of national prestige, only to find German policy is making that look like an increasingly embarrassing course to follow.

High German interest rates are certainly the most important factor behind Europe's difficulties. What makes the whole situation so much worse is that the Bundesbank finds itself in the unenviable position of having to conduct its own independent monetary policy against the background of an economic policy which it despises and which it tried hard but unsuccessfully to prevent.

That burden of having to cope with problems imposed by others for political purposes also extends to the ERM. The Bundesbank's role in the system, it leads the intervention, yet deep down many of the bankers remain sceptical about the system of such fixed parity regimes.

In 1979, the Bundesbank had to be dragged kicking and screaming into the mechanism. To the present day, the Bundesbank remains philosophically more in tune with a system of free-floating exchange rates, and consequently with a monetary policy based solely on domestic economic conditions.

Later, in 1990, the Bundesbank unsuccessfully resisted the timing and the terms of German monetary union. The most obvious sign was the



Silence is golden: the markets hang on the words of Helmut Schlesinger, Bundesbank president

row over the exchange rates for converting east into west German marks. Subsequently, the Bundesbank objected to profligate spending by the government, to above-inflation wage rises and, most recently, to interest rate subsidies for eastern Germany, which effectively shield it from the bank's monetary policy.

In 1991, the bank unsuccessfully resisted the timing and the terms of European monetary union, although this is never officially admitted. The Bundesbank does not of course look forward to its scheduled death as a significant force on January 1, 1999.

All this leaves the German central bank in the awkward position of having to support an economic policy which it does not believe in, within an exchange rate mechanism which it considers a folly, for the sake of a monetary union, which it considers premature.

No one should be surprised, therefore, to find that the Bundesbank has recently been acting strangely, and that it has given the impression of not being especially helpful.

The seemingly odd behaviour in recent weeks by its president and some of the regional representatives on its central council, especially the recurring comments about the need for an ERM realignment, highlight the present unease. They also high-

light the legacy of the central bank's history. The Bundesbank has remained in essence a domestically oriented institution, deeply suspicious of change, strongly embedded in the traditions of the old federal republic, its regions and provinces. Its directorate's outward internationalism is deceptive. However well-versed the three-piece suits, however well versed the language, they cannot hide the underlying reality that, as an institution, the Bundesbank remains federal with traditional provincial values, desperately trying to cling to vestiges of the *Wirtschaftswunder* economy of Konrad Adenauer and Ludwig Erhard that pulled the country from the mire a generation ago.

Such economic romanticism and all the provincialism associated with it is now in open conflict with the world at large. Seemingly innocent remarks now have the potential to cause a crash in currency markets. A straightforward comment by Helmut Schlesinger, the Bundesbank president, that there was no reason to put up interest rates for the time being, was interpreted as a definite pledge with important political overtones. When he said this was not a pledge but merely an opinion, it was interpreted as backtracking and as an omen that

rates will rise. When Reimut Jochimsen, one of the regional council members, says that sterling should devalue, then he is not trying to cause embarrassment to Norman Lamont, but he is merely saying what he and all the others have been thinking for the last ten years. The one accusation that cannot be levelled against the bank is that it lacks consistency.

There is also a consistency in the Bundesbank's cosy and informal manner of conducting business. Some German newspapers are surprisingly well-informed in advance about pending changes to interest rates, which would be unthinkable in Britain or in America. Intense rumours are even known to surface in the corridors of what one can here only safely describe as a large European commercial bank, which appears at times to be in possession of rather important information.

This cosiness contrasts sharply with international paranoia about the Bundesbank. Second guessing the German central bank has become a modern version of Kremlinology. The main change has been a shift in focus from a central committee, of a communist party, to the central council in the case of the Bundesbank.

Bundesbank Kremlinology is a multi-billion pound business. Ill-

timed rumours could potentially wipe out a European country's official reserves. These anonymous bankers become larger-than-life public figures. Everybody likes to guessimate what they think of the present exchange rates, or whether they prefer a realignment. What do they think of Maastricht or of the French referendum? The outside world has a reasonably good idea of what they think of the German government, though much of it is unprintable. What we do not know is what they think of Norman Lamont, and they might never tell us.

One of the main reasons why the Bundesbank has been allowed to run into this time-war trap, is its much celebrated independent status. Independence is a dangerous word. Independence from politicians, as it is presumed to mean, is equivalent to independence from the electorate. It works well, if everyone agrees on economic policy, though one may as well be dependent in such circumstances. If they do not agree on policy, independence becomes a different concept. It then means at best being unable to keep up with the changing political environment, and at worst defying the democratic will. The present trouble is that the Bundesbank — the benign dictator in the process of turning nasty — is not merely stepping out of line with the rest of Europe, but with its own country.

Criticisms of the German central bank are relatively rare inside the country, though recently Franz Steinbühler, the head of the IG Metall union, questioned not merely the high interest rates but the very notion of the bank's independence. The politicians have so far been careful not to offend the bankers, but with growing political uncertainties this cannot be ruled out.

The increasing tensions are happening less than three years after the West's famous "victory" over communism. Indeed, though the circumstances are entirely different, there are some parallels between the state of western Europe now, and eastern Europe just before its collapse. In both cases, the ruling elite appear to have lost touch with the groundswell of public opinion. The referendum in Denmark was one example. The French referendum may be another. The opinion polls suggest the outcome will be close.

In both cases, the institutions that wield the real power were not democratically elected. This goes for the communists. But it is also goes for the European Commission and the Bundesbank. If Maastricht is ratified, it would apply to the new European central bank as well.

The real dilemma for everybody is that a rejection of Maastricht would replace the prospect of an undemocratic structure in the future, with the certainty of continued subjugation to an undemocratic structure in the present, in the form of the Bundesbank. If one wanted to return to true democratic structures, one would need an overhaul so substantial, as to be virtually unthinkable. But then, much that was unthinkable in Europe has already happened in the past two years.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Through the eyes of Child

IT IS not only hot politicos who are under threat from higher bank charges. Child & Co, Britain's oldest private bank, presaged the threats now being made by high street banks when, on September 1, it doubled to £1,500 the minimum balance customers must have to avoid bank charges. Customers who fail to maintain the minimum will pay charges of a flat £25 a month, or £300 a year, and well-bred young things are said to be incensed by the move. So what does Child provide that, say, NatWest cannot for £300 a year? "We are not comparing like with like," says Bernard Gould, manager at Child's single branch at 1 Fleet Street. "However, we return cheques with our statements, for example, and we make no charge for looking after custody policies and share certificates." Child's flat fee includes any doubtless polite letters advising customers they are overdrawn — the not-always-polite version currently available at NatWest costs £20.

Barring the way

RIVALRY continues between the City's two best known wine bar groups. Corney & Barrow has the edge at Broadgate where it outnumbers the Colony group by two to one, but the Colony has increased its lead around Lloyd's of London to four to one with an opening in Leadenhall Market today. The Leadenhall Colony wine bar and grill is only a stone's



"Fortunately we have lots of lovely ulcers, migraines and nausea about."

throw from Corney & Barrow in the Victorian market. David Cleave, Colony Group managing director, an ex-Willis Faber broker, says: "At least someone has confidence in Lloyd's future."

Talking point

IF YOU thought musical birthday cards were as tasteless as you could get, you are obviously not one of the 200 privileged recipients of the "speaking" invitations sent out by Hay Management Consultants. Under the caption "Keep your finger on the pulse", the lurid green invitations feature a hand, a pin-striped cuff and a blue patch, which, when pressed, announces the consultancy's annual conference. According to Hay, the cards cost £10 each and were initiated by Paul Boulter, in public relations, despite vigorous protests from

consultants. What the invites think is not yet known, but do not be surprised if the £2,000 bill, financed, no doubt, by consultancy charges, turns out to be on the agenda of the "client issues" conference next week.

TERM used by a divorced City wife whose middle-aged ex-husband has bought a new red car: the male *menoporsche*.

Action men

AS LORD Owen flies into the hot spots in Bosnia, it transpires that Sir Brian Jenkins, the Lord Mayor of London, is something of an action man too. This week, he has been visiting Europe's troubled economic zones. Calmly riding out the maelstrom in Scandinavian financial markets, Sir Brian called home this week ship-to-shore on his way between Helsinki and Stockholm, as Finland was busy unpegging itself from the euro. Not unused to market turbulence in home waters, Sir Brian displayed a cool head. On a crackly line to *The Times*, he reported from "the eye of the storm" that he had firmed talks with the governor of Finland's central bank and the Finnish prime minister at the height of the currency troubles. He was reassured that Finland's recovery was under way. Like Lord Owen, Sir Brian now faces more onerous tasks — promoting the City as Europe's financial centre and London as the natural site of the European bank.

DEBRA ISAAC

Practical approach to environmental tests for packaging

From Mr Dick Hills
Sir, In response to the article "Pop goes the foam" (Infinite Times, September 4) I would like to come to the defence of expanded polystyrene — a packaging material in high demand yet frequently portrayed as the environmental villain. For the record, EPS is recyclable, it is oil-free and it is extremely resource-efficient as it contains 98 per cent air.

However, environmental issues should no longer be simplified to slogans such as "environmentally friendly" or "recyclable". Advances in the science of environmental analysis show the importance of considering a product in terms

of its life cycle — its impact on the environment from cradle to grave. A product should be judged in terms of its resource efficiency throughout its life: from extraction of raw materials, through production, transportation and use to recovery and final disposal.

In the case of EPS, such analysis shows it to be a very effective and competitive product. The green angle has mistakenly been seen as the link in the armour of a high performance packaging material and used indiscriminately to hoodwink both the consumer and the packaging decision-maker.

Environmental considera-

tions are paramount but they must be balanced with fitness for purpose.

Popcorn may be biodegradable (so much so that it can degrade in any damp conditions) but for keeping products cushioned in transit, clean, dry, rodent free, at a far lower cost to the environment than your article implies, it cannot be considered a serious contender to EPS.

Yours faithfully,
DICK HILLS,
Chairman,
EPS packaging committee,
British Plastics Federation,
6, Bath Place,
Rivington St,
EC2.

Copier cowboys

From Mr Ron Young
Sir, I write to clarify matters with regard to your article "High-cost copiers" (August 21). Although the CBI's intention was in no way to suggest that "market leaders and other reputable companies are in any way involved in this scam", members of the Finance & Leasing Association (FLA) feel that the article reflects badly upon the whole photocopier leasing industry. Members, who account for an estimated 80 per cent of the UK market, are concerned

about the bad publicity the photocopier industry is receiving, as much of the coverage has failed to mention the steps the leasing industry has already taken and the vast majority of complaints are not against members of the FLA. Detailed guidelines were agreed in January of this year addressing the problems of documentation which have been the centre of concern. These were registered by the OFT. All members' documentation had to be revised by 1 April 1992 and this has been achieved. These guidelines notes ensure that contracts do

not contain unclear clauses which involve costly extras. They state that the period of hire must not be longer than the expected life of the equipment. No member would issue a contract lasting 9 years.

We, like the CBI and the Campaign To Clean Up Copier Contracts, are committed to eliminating problems in the photocopier industry, and our Association is the one body that has so far taken wide ranging practical steps to tackle this issue.

We hope that now our guidelines are in place, suppliers will be encouraged to deal with companies who are members of our Association, which will help drive out the cowboys who are causing harm to members of our Association as well as to the customers who fall prey to them.

Yours faithfully,
RON YOUNG,
Chairman,
Finance & Leasing Association,
18 Upper Grosvenor Street,
W1.

good citizen who will lead us away from this abyss?

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH EDWARDS,
The Old Mill House,
Micheldever, Hampshire.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

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The "Shell" Transport and Trading Company, Public Limited Company

Interim dividend 1992

Notice is hereby given that a balance of the Register will be struck on Friday, 2nd October, 1992 for the preparation of warrants for an interim dividend for the year 1992 of 9.3p per 25p Ordinary share payable on 2nd November, 1992.

For transferees to receive this dividend, their transfers must be lodged with the Company's Registrar — Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, The Causeway, Worthing, West Sussex BN99 6DA, not later than 3pm on 2nd October, 1992.

SHARE WARRANTS TO BEARER

The Coupon to be presented for the above dividend will be No. 188 which must be deposited for examination at Lloyds Bank Plc, Registrar's Department, Issues Section, Borsa House, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6EE, not later than 25th October, 1992, or may be surrendered through Messieurs Lazard Frères et Cie, 121 boulevard Haussmann, 75008, Paris.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
J. A. Cunliffe
Secretary

Shell Centre,
London SE1 7NA
10th September, 1992

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Computer A

[illegible]

Why skill now rules as the best frozen asset

Andy Martin on this weekend's return to Britain of the ice hockey bruisers who will no longer be able to skate round the regulations

THE ice hockey equivalent of the "man bites dog" story beloved of sensation-hungry journalists is: "In yesterday's match between the Saskatchewan Satists and the Vancouver Vandals, a mass brawl did not break out, nobody mistook his stick for a shillelagh, and grievous bodily harm was not committed." Umberto Eco could have included *Non-Violent Ice Hockey* alongside *Nomadic Urban Planning* and *The History of Antarctic Agriculture* in his list of oxymoronic book titles in *Four-cault's Pendulum*.

But this weekend could see a contradiction in terms become reality in the Molson Challenge two-game series at Wembley Arena between the Montreal Canadiens and Chicago Blackhawks, when the National Hockey League (NHL) returns to this country after a gap of 33 years, brandishing a new rule book.

Recent rule changes are designed to cut down on what is euphemistically referred to as "contact". Investigators of fights will be sent off, not just banned briefly, and "stick work" — otherwise known as slashing, hooking and generally beating your opponent to a pulp — is outlawed. In an additional symbolic gesture, helmets will no longer be compulsory. But if I were an ice hockey player I wouldn't be giving mine away yet.

This time all that has changed is that the fights have broken out before the match. If "Yanks (or Canucks) go home" banners appear outside Wembley they are likely to be the work of the British Ice Hockey Association (BIHA), which looks upon the arrival of the NHL and its attendant razzmatazz — pop bands and

hospitality girls in red hats — with about as much enthusiasm as Dad's Army must have regarded doodle-bugs.

Fearing this weekend may portend a full-scale invasion, the BIHA has ruled against any fraternising with the enemy by banning the Bracknell Bumblebees from a youth coaching clinic with the visitors, under pain of excommunication.

There is a theory that the demon drink is at the root of the Ice Wars. While the Wembley matches are sponsored by Molson, a Canadian brewer (which also owns the Montreal team), the fairy godfather of the British league is Heineken. When the men in suits fronting the two teams say that their objective in coming here is to "sell our product around the world" and to "penetrate the market", it is hard to tell if they're talking about ice hockey or beer. Probably both.

When ice hockey began in Canada in the nineteenth century it was a rather genteel game, like croquet on ice, but it soon developed into a Darwinian exercise in the survival of the fittest. Now, when the argot of the game — "spearing", "boarding", "butt ending" and "flashing" — is largely to do with what happens when two fully grown men smash into one another like dodgem cars, it can look to the uninitiated like wrestling on skates.

There was a period in the Seventies, dominated by the Philadelphia Flyers, when pure intimidation could win games. Under the reign of some of the old owners, ice hockey teams were virtually a branch of organised crime. And there is still at least one heavy on every team, known



Seeing stars: Grimson, second right, and young supporters watch J.J. Daigneault, of the Canadiens, practise his shooting at Alexandra Palace

as the "enforcer" or "goon", whose job it is to act as a minder to lighter, more dexterous players, and make mincemeat out of anybody who looks at them sideways.

When the Canadiens took the Stanley Cup from the Flyers and won it for four straight years in the second half of the Seventies, they single-handedly shifted the emphasis from brutality to skill. The whole point of the rule changes is to encourage that evolution. Even Stewart, a

CBS producer from Canada who once coached a girls' ice hockey team, says the NHL is "treating a fine line. They're trying to cut down on the fighting, but they can't cut it out, because in LA that's what the crowds go to see. On the other hand, that's why people don't take it seriously enough."

Traditionally, ice hockey players were ungenteel giants who, apart from passing to eat cow pie and terrorise passing grizzlies, did nothing much

else but play hockey. Now they are slim college graduates with law degrees and MBAs. The best teams — and Montreal and Chicago are among the best in the world — are a subtle blend of brawn and brainpower.

The Blackhawks number among their ranks both Stu Grimson, nicknamed "The Grim Reaper" and touted as the most physical player in the league, and Jeremy Roenick, who is the good-looking, articulate Gary Lineker of the

NHL. In training at Alexandra Palace, the Canadiens seemed to embody a potted history of the species, running the gamut from hairy cave-men with clubs through to the nimble *avant-garde* intellectuals of the future.

From a distance, with their clothes on, Todd Ewen and Denis Savard look similarly imposing. But Savard wears several layers of gear to achieve the effect: body armour to protect legs, shoulders and chest, topped off by shirt

and shorts. Underneath it all is a slight man, a nippy winger who can shimmy past defenders. Ewen, on the other hand, does not really need all the padding; he looks like that anyway. And he does not bother with a helmet either. A body-check from him would feel like being hit by a beer truck.

The Molson Challenge promises to be a classic study in the eternal struggle between strength and strategy, force and finesse.

SCHOOLS RUGBY

Durham get away to flying start

By CHRIS DIGHTON

DURHAM School have started the new season where they left off with the old — in emphatic winning style. Unbeaten at first and second XV level last season and holders of the school team-of-the-year award, their first victories were King's School, Tynemouth, who were beaten 65-6.

In the process Durham ran in 11 tries, five scored by Dan Sullivan, the wing. Durham have 19 players left from last season's two successful teams, but have lost the second-row forward, Gareth Archer, who was an England 18-group player. He has opted, after a year in the sixth form, to take up a joinery apprenticeship.

That still leaves the school with three internationals from the England 16-group: the scrum half, Philip Harvey, and Jeffrey Roberts and Noel Shearing, both flankers.

The school has just returned from a tour of South Africa, where four games were won and one drawn from eight fixtures. "The lesson from that trip was that the new rules will certainly make for fast, open rugby," Nick Williams, the master in charge, said.

Another school to draw strong conclusions about the revised laws was KCS, Wimbledon. They went on a joint rugby and rowing trip to New Zealand, and lost five out of six games.

"The beauty of rugby was that there used to be a place in the team for all shapes of player," Simon Williams, the master in charge of rugby, said. "Now it looks as if the game will be dominated by the big, fast boys."

King's College open their domestic programme with a game against Tiffin a week tomorrow but retain only a handful of players from the touring party.

Beaten finalist serves notice of intent at US Open

Courier's power cuts way past Agassi's defences

FROM ANDREW LONGMOR, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

TWO down and one to go, Jim Courier reflected after he had reached the semi-finals of the US Open for the second year in succession. Having already disposed of the past and the present, in the forms of John McEnroe and Andre Agassi, the top seed faces his third American, Pete Sampras, tomorrow.

Therein lies the main danger for Courier, who could find he has expended all his emotional and physical energy in winning the American section of the tournament and have nothing left to offer in the final on Sunday. There was an element of that last year, when he beat Sampras and Connors but fell horribly flat against an inspired Stefan Edberg in the final.

First, though, he has to beat Sampras, an old friend but

hostile foe, who will be determined to make up for his spineless showing 12 months ago.

Courier, who is becoming an expert in the art of psychology, launched the first shot across the Californian's bows immediately after his 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, 6-4 victory over Agassi. "Pete said that the match last year was the worst he had ever played. Let's hope this will be the second worst," the world No. 1 said with a half-smile. In other words, he gave me no credit for that beating, maybe he will for this one. Who knows, though, what mental byplay passes between the trio of Americans, who have been competing against each other from their junior days?

Courier has certainly established a domination over Agassi which the Wimbledon champion will find increasingly hard to throw off. Agassi might, in the words of Barbara

Streisand, "this 'newest' and most celebrated fan, be the 'Zen Master' of tennis, but Courier, more motorcycle mechanic than Zen Master, is altogether too formidable a force at the top of his form."

Prompted perhaps by the imposing presence of Arnold Schwarzenegger at the side of the court — there was no sign of Streisand, it should be noted — Agassi's response to his fifth successive defeat by his former room-mate at the Nick Bollettieri Academy was a promise to return fitter and stronger for next time.

Yet he did not lose the match through lack of fitness or, except on service, through lack of power, but because he was drawn into a game of heavy hitting which he was always destined to lose.

In fact, in the face of serving almost as ferocious as Goran Ivanisevic's at Wimbledon, Agassi did well to survive for three hours and 47 minutes.

RESULTS

US unless stated

Men's singles

Quarter-finals

J. Courier bt A. Agassi, 6-3, 6-7, 6-1, 6-4

Men's doubles

Quarter-finals

J. Courier and T. Nijssen (Hol) bt Z. Garrison and R. Leach, 6-4, 6-4

Semi-finals

N. Pietrangeli and M. Woodbridge (Aus) bt E. Sanchez and P. Galbraith, 6-0, 6-3

H. Sukovic (Cz) and T. Nijssen (Hol) bt J. Hetherington and G. Michalski (Can), 6-4, 6-3

Women's singles

Quarter-finals

M. Mateve-Fragiere (Swit) bt M. Malenica (Bul), 6-2, 5-3 ret.

Women's doubles

Quarter-finals

J. Novak (Cz) and L. Savchenko-Nelid (Cz) bt M. J. Fernandez and Z. Garrison, 1-6, 6-4, 7-6, M. Navratilova

and P. Shriver bt P. Fendick and A. Smedacev (Cz), 6-2, 6-2

Mixed doubles

Quarter-finals

J. Sukovic (Cz) and T. Nijssen (Hol) bt Z. Garrison and R. Leach, 6-4, 6-4

Semi-finals

N. Pietrangeli and M. Woodbridge (Aus) bt E. Sanchez and P. Galbraith, 6-0, 6-3

H. Sukovic (Cz) and T. Nijssen (Hol) bt J. Hetherington and G. Michalski (Can), 6-4, 6-3

GIRLS' SINGLES: Second round: J. Supersong (US) bt S. A. Sotol (GB), 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; Woodbridge (Aus) bt C. Chuma (Gru), 6-2, 6-7, 6-4

GIRLS' DOUBLES: First round: S. A. Sotol and A. Wamberg (GB) bt E. S. Bena and M. Hummel, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1; Second round: Sotol and Wamberg (GB) bt G. Guller (Col) and L. Hen (GB), 6-3, 6-1; J. Palla and L. Woodroffe (GB) bt M. Bernard and V. Webb (Can), 7-5, 4-6, 7-5

BOYS' SINGLES: Second round: A. Richardson (GB) bt J. Vesepo (P. Ric), 6-3, 6-3

and P. Shriver bt P. Fendick and A. Smedacev (Cz), 6-2, 6-2

Mixed doubles

Quarter-finals

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and P. Shriver bt P. Fendick and A. Smedacev (Cz), 6-2, 6-2

Mixed doubles

Quarter-finals

J. Sukovic (Cz) and T. Nijssen (Hol) bt Z. Garrison and R. Leach, 6-4, 6-4

Semi-finals

N. Pietrangeli and M. Woodbridge (Aus) bt E. Sanchez and P. Galbraith, 6-0, 6-3

H. Sukovic (Cz) and T. Nijssen (Hol) bt J. Hetherington and G. Michalski (Can), 6-4, 6-3

GIRLS' SINGLES: Second round: J. Supersong (US) bt S. A. Sotol (GB), 4-6, 7-5, 6-2; Woodbridge (Aus) bt C. Chuma (Gru), 6-2, 6-7, 6-4

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Lewis and Robinson undermine Surrey

Nottinghamshire strike back for splendid victory

BY JACK BAILEY

TRENT BRIDGE (final day of four): Nottinghamshire (23 pts) beat Surrey (5) by five wickets

THE Nottinghamshire end-of-season party on Wednesday night was either a fairly dull affair or the players possess remarkable resilience. In any event, they emerged from the pavilion yesterday morning full of purpose after a dismal previous day, which had found Surrey's position so restored as to be 227 runs ahead with five wickets left.

However, they rolled over Surrey for the addition of only 34 more runs and, left with 262 for victory and 84 overs in which to achieve it, came home with 15 balls to spare. Nottinghamshire now sit in fourth place in the championship, only a breath behind Northamptonshire. The two players who were there at the end — Tim Robinson and Chris Lewis — both had a giant share in an unlikely win. Lewis scythed through the Surrey tail, reaping six wickets for 90 in the innings and ten for 155 in the match.

In all Robinson batted for four and a half hours for his undefeated 129. His innings was the cornerstone of Nottinghamshire's effort during which Archer, their young discovery, who made a century in the previous match against Derbyshire, played a noble part. Coming in when Not-

	P	W	L	D	B	R	P	B
Essex (1)	21	11	5	5	50	52	258	
Gloucestershire (2)	21	7	4	10	56	51	225	
Nottinghamshire (3)	21	7	8	8	51	57	220	
Derbyshire (4)	21	7	8	8	47	58	218	
Leeds (5)	21	7	8	8	36	57	205	
Warwickshire (6)	20	20	5	7	8	52	199	
Northamptonshire (7)	20	20	5	7	13	58	198	
Surrey (8)	21	5	7	7	9	57	194	
Sussex (9)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (10)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (11)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (12)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (13)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (14)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (15)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (16)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (17)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (18)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (19)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (20)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (21)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (22)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (23)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (24)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (25)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (26)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (27)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (28)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (29)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (30)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (31)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (32)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (33)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (34)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (35)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (36)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (37)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (38)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (39)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (40)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (41)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (42)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (43)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (44)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (45)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (46)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (47)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (48)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (49)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (50)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (51)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (52)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (53)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (54)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (55)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (56)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (57)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (58)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (59)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (60)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (61)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (62)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (63)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (64)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (65)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (66)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (67)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (68)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (69)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (70)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (71)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (72)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (73)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (74)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (75)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (76)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (77)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (78)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (79)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (80)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (81)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (82)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (83)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (84)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (85)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (86)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (87)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (88)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (89)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (90)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (91)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Gloucestershire (92)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Nottinghamshire (93)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Derbyshire (94)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Leeds (95)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Warwickshire (96)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Northamptonshire (97)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Surrey (98)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Sussex (99)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	
Yorkshire (100)	21	5	7	7	9	56	185	

tinghamshire had stumbled to 39 for three. Archer lent momentum as well as solidity to the occasion. When he played on to Bryson, he had made 66, his stand with Robinson was worth 132 and the game had turned the way of his team.

Surrey's misfortune at losing Martin Bicknell with hamstring trouble after he had taken two prime wickets cannot be overstated, but the salient feature of the last act of a match full of twists and turns was the way in which Surrey were rushed out in the morning.

The chances of Nottinghamshire winning this match after Surrey's resurgence on Wednesday were slim to say the least, but we had reckoned without a rejuvenated Lewis. Where he had been lethargic, he now ran in with a bound-

ing stride and a rediscovered urgency. In 39 balls he took four wickets for 17 runs.

The third over of the day saw Bramhall confirm his promise as a more than adequate deputy for the injured French. He took a low catch behind the stumps to get rid of Feltham. Four overs later, Bicknell went the same way, but to an even better catch; and by the time he had yanked Kendrick with an in-swing, Lewis was well into his stride and Surrey had lost three wickets in adding only 23 runs.

The only hindrance to Lewis's triumphal march — interrupted briefly by Cairns, who had Bryson caught on the boundary, at deep point of all places — was the courageous, well-organised batting of Brown, the young man who has all Surrey talking in glowing terms. By the time Brown's short appearance had been ended by Lewis, Surrey had lost all five remaining wickets for only 34 runs and Brown had made 30 of them.

His undefeated 50, spanning a gloomy evening and a disastrous morning, was made from 82 balls with scarcely a false stroke. It was easy to see why his brief career has already produced three centuries, one of them against Nottinghamshire in July. But after Surrey's plucky play on Wednesday, the team as a whole must have been sick at heart.



In full flow: Gattling launches into a square drive during his 71 at Lord's

Foster stays on to coach Kent

BY IVO TENNANT

CANTERBURY (final day of four): Glamorgan (21 pts) beat Kent (6) by 86 runs

IF, NEXT week, Kent fail to become championship runners-up, they will rue two of their three defeats this season. Twice they should have beaten Glamorgan and twice they lost through abject bunting. Yesterday, there was a degree of world-weary resignation to their game, so it is as well that Daryl Foster is to remain their coach for the next five years.

For their part, Glamorgan ensured they would not finish bottom of the table. After being 125 for nine on the first day, their victory was quite something. The bunting of Coty and Richards was the overriding reason for the marked improvement in their cricket but there was more to it than that.

Last month, they gave a debut at Derby to Darren Thomas, a stocky seamer on the quick side of medium. His return was five for 80.

Here, he improved on that, having five batsmen out for 79 through moving the ball away from the right-hander and, for all his lack of height (5ft 8in), obtaining some lift in addition.

The wickets were all taken yesterday. Benson, whose normal method of leaving the ball is not to shoulder arms but to play inside the line, hence giving the impression that he has been beaten outside off stump, for once favoured convention. He was still taking his

bat out of the way when he played on.

He had not added to his overnight 41 and, when Hooper was splendidly caught at second slip off Watkin Kent's target of 329 was starting to look unattainable. Only Davis, the night-watcher, played correctly for long before Thomas beat him with the perfect leg-cut.

Thomas's next ball was shorter and wider. For Fleming, the very idea of playing inside any line is not to be countenanced. His square cut was top-edged to third man, where Watkin held a nicely judged catch, running ten yards to his left. Ealham and McCague did manage to add 46 in seven overs but the match was lost by now.

Thus the position of runners-up will not be settled until the last day of the season. Kent go to Edgbaston, where they will need all of Foster's renowned motivation. It was announced yesterday that he will stay as their coach and cricket manager for at least the next five years. Benson, the Kent captain, was highly pleased.

Foster came to Kent last year, following great success with Western Australia, on the recommendation of John Inverarity, who had much to do with Kent finishing runners-up in 1988. Dennis Lillee also spoke highly of him, so he had enviable credentials. He has made all the difference to Kent over the last two seasons.

Brown gives lesson in resolution

BY RICHARD STRETON

LORD'S (third day of four): Middlesex, with four second-innings wickets in hand, are 30 runs ahead of Warwickshire

KEITH Brown was on the brink of his first hundred this season at the close yesterday, after Warwickshire met sterner opposition than had seemed likely when Middlesex followed on 275 runs behind. Almost everyone sold their wicket dearly, though baring intervention by the weather, Warwickshire should win today with time to spare.

Brown showed great determination for just over three hours as he made 95 not out, with a six and 11 fours among

his strokes, and was primarily responsible for making certain that Middlesex took the match into its final day.

Brown set up camp half an hour before tea at a point when the innings was in danger of subsiding. Embury, in his most obstinate mood, stayed with him through 28 overs at the end as 80 were added before, in Donald's final over, he lifted a catch to mid-on from his first poor stroke.

After Haynes had retired at 16 with a rickied neck in the seventh over, it was Gattling and Roseberry, who were the possible to resist on a worn pitch. They confirmed that it had not deteriorated enough to explain completely the Mid-

dlex first innings collapse on the previous evening.

The odd ball from Smith and Lloyd, the off spinners, kept horribly low. Gattling and Roseberry, though, chose the right ball to hit through the gaps as Warwickshire kept attacking fields all afternoon. Warwickshire did not break through until Small returned and in his first over dismissed Roseberry and Ramprakash with consecutive balls.

Roseberry was leg-before to one that kept low. Ramprakash got a brute that lifted and left him and was caught behind. Carr settled in confidently before Donald raised the spectre of a three-day finish with a telling spell. Donald, when he pulls out the stops, is one of the game's

most compelling sights. He is carefully nursed but has still bowled around 550 overs this summer.

He ran to extra cover to take the catch himself when Gattling, having made 71, failed to get hold of a short-armed pull. Carr played loosely against another extremely quick ball and Moles held the catch two-handed above his head at first slip.

Gattling batted two hours 40 minutes and hit 12 fours and needs 47 in Middlesex's last match this weekend against Surrey to reach 2,000 runs for the season. Roseberry is 76 short of the same milestone.

Haynes returned when Carr was out and lingered for 14 overs until Muntun held a fine slip catch to dismiss him.

Essex hit 440 to complete rousing revival

ESSEX achieved the third-highest fourth-innings score made to win a county championship match when they beat Derbyshire by four wickets at Derby yesterday. Graham Gooch leading them home with an unbeaten 123, the 98th century of his career (Geoffrey Wheeler writes).

The champions, who had been left 440 after being bowled out for 96 in their first innings, began the final day at 283 for five and lost only one more wicket, that of Mike Garmham, who made 66 of a crucial partnership of 129 with Gooch. Derek Pringle kept the England captain company while the last 84 runs were whittled away.

It was not one of Gooch's more aggressive innings, for

he was in for 373 minutes and hit only 12 fours. But he scarcely played a false stroke, underlining his own competitiveness and that of his team.

"A top-drawer performance," was how Gooch described a remarkable recovery. "Once we had gone for 96 I think that made us more determined second time around. It was very satisfying and was as good as anything I can remember in my time with Essex."

The Derbyshire captain, Kim Barnett, said: "They are the only team who could pull off a victory like that because they are so disciplined and are used to winning." Derbyshire's cause was hampered by injuries to the West Indian fast bowler, Ian Bishop, who

was struggling with shin and Achilles tendon problems, and Dominic Cork, who left the field with a back spasm.

But with Gooch, who made 53 in the first innings, exercising such control, it appeared that Essex could have scored 500 if necessary.

The fourth-innings record is held by Middlesex, who scored 502 for six at Trent Bridge in 1925. In 1990, Hampshire made 446 for eight to beat Gloucestershire at Southampton and last year, at Hove, Sussex scored 436 to force a tie with Kent. Kenneth Benjamin, 25, the West Indian fast bowler from the Leeward Islands, has signed for Worcestershire as their overseas player for 1992.



Gooch: commanding

Ranatunga's milestone

MORATUNA: Arjuna Ranatunga became the first Sri Lankan to complete 2,000 Test runs as he defied Australia on a rain-affected third day of their third Test here. His unbroken 99-run partnership with the wicketkeeper, Tillekeratne, took Sri Lanka to 215 for four, which left them 122 in arrears.

Heavy rain washed out the first four hours but after the groundstaff had used buckets to remove water from flooded sections of the outfield, the weather relented sufficiently for 30 overs to be bowled in the final session.

Ranatunga, 28, the sole survivor of the team that played in Sri Lanka's first Test against England ten years ago, has made three centuries

in a career spanning 36 Tests. His 2,000th run was a pushed single off Warner, the leg spinner, who had Tillekeratne dropped by Healy when he had scored 40.

Tillekeratne went on to complete his second Test half-century by hitting two fours in an over from Matthews, who otherwise gave little away and was the pick of the bowlers, despite being handicapped by the wet ball.

Ranatunga, dropped at slip by Mark Taylor off Matthews when ten, was 45 not out at the close. The partnership is a fifth-wicket record for Sri Lanka against Australia, surpassing the 96 added by Mendis and Duleep Mendis against Greg Chappell's 1983 side. (AFP)

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derby vs Essex

DERBY (final day of four): Essex (20pts) beat Derbyshire (6) by four wickets

DERBYSHIRE: First Innings 225 (J G O'Connell 84, G Adams 64, D R Pringle 5 for 88)

Second Innings 309 (C J Adams 135, J E Mores 55, M C Bell 6 for 87)

ESSEX: First Innings 96 (G A Gooch 55, R Bishop 6 for 10)

Second Innings 440 (G A Gooch 123, M Garmham 66, D Pringle 129, A Hirst 66, J E Mores 55, M C Bell 6 for 87)

Umpires

England are falling fast into mediocrity



Taylor: under pressure

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND are fast becoming a second-rate football nation. In 1990, they finished fourth in the World Cup. For 1994, they are unlikely even to claim a place among the 24 countries competing in the finals of the same competition in the United States.

The reasons for the decline lie primarily within a system that continues to promote mediocrity but also in a national manager who has exacerbated his own problems. In spite of having his plans continually disrupted by withdrawals, Graham Taylor has been experienced to an excessive degree.

In 25 internationals, he has called on 54 players, 25 of them new to the team, and made 108 changes. Other than Walker, the only world-class player among his extensive choices, no one has started in each of the last seven games.

The broken pattern, which inevitably diminishes the belief and understanding of those who do play, is not wholly his fault. No fewer than 16 of his previous selections were unavailable for the match against Spain in Santander on Wednesday.

Nevertheless, as his predecessors discovered, that is the traditional nature of the job. The England manager, as Taylor himself admitted yesterday, must invariably design a jigsaw with damaged pieces given to him 48 hours before the event. Consequently, the best theories can seldom, if ever, be put into practice.

All the more reason, therefore, for Taylor to adhere as closely as possible, under the unfavourable circumstances, to a settled side and formation. His policy of picking different teams to suit each occasion has been counter-productive and particularly as he is working with inadequate components.

Because the Premier League is absurdly overloaded with fixtures, those who take part in it are becoming merely muscular, functional journeymen. "It would have been nice to have had somebody to slow things down a bit in midfield, alter the direction of attacks or see things at the back," Taylor said, reflecting on the 1-0 defeat in Santander. "The trouble is we don't have those sort of players."

If Taylor's comments had been uttered during the build-up to the game, expectations in Spain would have been more realistic. Instead, unwisely, he declared that England would not only attempt to win but do so in an entertaining manner. Thus, he left himself and his side open to criticism on two counts.

When it was duly thrown at him, he pointed out that Bobby Robson was subjected to similar abuse after the failure in the European championship four years ago. The critics were more savage then but they were subsequently silenced in the only way they can — by success.

Robson built an unbeaten sequence that stretched to the eve of the World Cup finals two years later. He did so by retaining, almost exclusively, the same line-up — Shilton, Stevens, Walker, Butcher, Robson or Gascoigne, Webb or Platt, Lineker, Beardsley, Waddle and Barnes.

Robson was blessed that there was still a vein of genuine natural talent he was able to regularly tap. The loss of Barnes and Gascoigne, neither of whom may fully recover from injury, has left Taylor virtually bereft of out-

standing individuals. Even Walker has recently fallen far below his usual standard while the lonely Shearer cannot be blamed.

As Taylor conceded, he was given neither support from an over-run midfield nor protection from an apathetic Portuguese referee.

Apart from Shearer's potential, which has yet to be realised, England's contribution was as ominous as Norway's 10-0 humiliation of San Marino the same night.

Taylor admits that the Norwegians "have put a lot of pressure on the rest of the group when they play San Marino". They also promise to apply further stress next month when they visit Wem-

bley as England's opening opponents in the World Cup qualifying competition.

Taylor would prefer to follow his natural instincts and attack them on a broad front as well. Yet he is aware that, as in Spain, his instincts tend to be far removed from reality. He could do worse than recall the likes of Beardsley, Steven and Waddle. Assuming they are available, that is.

Stability is urgently required to restore the faith of a disenchanted nation and Taylor can only hope that he soon finds it. "We have to be positive and keep going," he said, "otherwise you can collapse underneath it all."

Scots' inquest, page 31

Liverpool finally agree £2.3 million deal

Atkinson happy after securing Saunders move

By CLIVE WHITE

THE transfer of Dean Saunders from Liverpool to Aston Villa duly went through yesterday after both clubs compromised on a fee of £2.3 million, with criticism from Terry Yorath, the Wales manager, of the way the Merseyside club deployed not only Saunders but Ian Rush, his Liverpool and Wales colleague.

"It's no good buying somebody and then telling them they're crap," Yorath said. "You have to know your product. At Liverpool, Dean has been going into areas where he can't score goals."

The move, which makes Saunders the most expensive British player in total fees between British clubs at £6.26 million, brings to a close a 15-month spell of mixed fortunes for the Welshman at Anfield. "I scored 23 goals last season, broke two European records and won an FA Cup winners' medal so I can't be too bad a player," he said.

It was his goal return in the league — ten last season — that was not up to the standard Graeme Souness, the Liverpool manager, expected after signing him for a then record fee of £2.9 million from Derby

County before the start of last season. Liverpool were looking to recoup most of their outlay but, after ten days of negotiation, settled on a fee that was some £600,000 less than they paid.

Both clubs, naturally, claimed to have got what they wanted in the end. "We have put together a good package and, after discussing the deal for ten days, I've saved Villa over £200,000," Doug Ellis, the Villa chairman, said.

It will be interesting to see whether Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, can coax more out of a player who Arthur Cox, the Derby manager, once said he would not swap for anyone in Europe. "He will do a great job for Villa," Atkinson said. "He is a predator. He's energetic and exciting."

Saunders, 28, will make his debut in the televised match against Leeds United at Elland Road on Sunday.

Yorath has always been an admirer of Saunders, though his goal in Wales's 6-0 win against the Faeroe Islands in a World Cup qualifying tie in Cardiff on Wednesday was his first in a year for his country. "He's at his best when he's

running on the ball and getting to the byline," Yorath said. "Last night, we gave him a rollicking because he was starting to run away from the goal to look for the ball. He was going the wrong way for us."

"Liverpool have always been known for playing good football but if you haven't got the players available to play the ball at the right time, you're not going to get the best out of players like Dean and Rush."

Souness will seek permission from his board of directors to use at least £1 million of the fee to fund fresh moves within the transfer market. He flew to Copenhagen on Wednesday to attend the international match between Denmark and Germany to run the rule over Torben Piechnik, the Danish central defender.

Piechnik, who plays for FC Copenhagen, is valued at about £600,000 and it is thought likely that Souness will table a bid within the next few days. The Merseyside club was also monitoring the progress of Steve Llewellyn, the West Bromwich Albion left back, on Wednesday when Albion played Reading.

Craig Short, another player in whom Liverpool have shown an interest, has been the subject of a £2.5 million bid by Blackburn Rovers, but Notts County have turned it down. They value the central defender at £3 million.

Saunders on the move
1985 Swansea City £200,000
1987 Brighton-Oxford £200,000
1989 Oxford-Derby £1m
1991 Derby-Liverpool £2.3m
1992 Liverpool-Villa £2.3m
Total £6.26m
League appearances (and goals): Swansea, 53 (12); Cardiff, 4 (0); Brighton, 72 (21); Oxford, 59 (22); Derby, 106 (42); Liverpool, 41 (10).
International appearances (and goals): Wales, 35 (11).

Tottenham calls 14 to meeting

WHILE Liverpool and Manchester United began to look for a way out of the Premier League's impasse yesterday, Tottenham Hotspur, their erstwhile colleague in the Big Five, aligned themselves firmly with the majority (Peter Ball writes). Terry Venables, Tottenham's managing director, is arranging a meeting next Thursday for the 14 clubs excluded from the advertising hoardings deal with Dorna.

Although one or two clubs expressed fears that this could lead to a hardening of the division between the "platinum clubs" and the rest, and undermine Wednesday's cautious optimism, Venables was unrepentant last night.

"If something materialises out of Wednesday's meeting, well and good, but there hasn't been anything positive so far, and I felt we should have a meeting just to discuss the situation," he said.

To avoid charges that the 14 are mirroring the clandestine meetings held by the eight in their moves to sign their contract with Dorna, Venables has invited Rick Parry, the League's chief executive.

Tottenham's leadership gives the 14 doubt they lacked.



Eyes on the main prize: Palmer and his caddy line up a putt yesterday

Palmer finds his best form to take early lead

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

IAN Palmer, of South Africa, put a frustrating summer behind him yesterday when, with a first round of 63, he captured the lead in the GA European Open on the Old course at Sunningdale. He leads by one shot from Mark James, of England, Robert Karlsson, of Sweden, and Frank Nobilo, of New Zealand. Mats Lanner, another Swede, scored 65.

Paul Way, whose last win was in this event in 1987, was one of several players on 66: Nick Faldo, who has never won the European title, took 67.

Palmer, 35, who won the Asian Classic in February, could have been forgiven for thinking that his time had come after ten mediocre years. Instead, he has fallen back into the old routine of rarely remaining for the weekend. In 17 other European events he has been a victim of the halfway gullotine on 11 occasions, has fallen from first to fourth in the Volvo Order of Merit, and his earnings of £11,527 in that time would scarcely cover his expenses.

Even so, Palmer still has a smile on his face. "If someone had told me before the start of this year that I would win the first European tournament of the season and then play rubbish, I would have taken it," he said.

Success in Bangkok earned him a place in the world championship in Jamaica in December, when he is guaranteed \$55,000 for teeing-up. "It's been a struggle with all the courses being new to me," he said. "I'll be more selective next year and pick the ones that suit my game."

Palmer found the Old course to be to his liking on a clear, bright morning. He struck his opening drive at 7.10, holed from five feet a few minutes later for a birdie, followed with a glorious four-iron at the 2nd which left him with a putt of three feet for another birdie. He coasted home the ball from 15 feet for his birdie at the 3rd, and later added four more birdies.

James has had to weather the storm of missing four half-way cuts in six tournaments. "I pined well for my 64," he said. "I had only 28 puts, miraculous for me."

Karlsson, who was fifth in the Open at Muirfield, expects to win tournaments. If not this year, "I'm in no hurry," he said. "I feel I could have won already. I just need a bit of luck. But it's not my last year out here." He holed from 25 feet, his longest putt of the round, for a two at the 13th and his seventh birdie. His hopes of sharing the lead vanished with a nine-iron into a bunker at the 18th.

Nobilo appears to blossom in the autumn of the European season. He won the Lancôme Trophy a year ago and has finished in the top ten in each of his last three tournaments. Out in 30, he hit an eight-iron to 12 feet at the 16th for his fifth birdie in a flawless round.

Faldo drove into the trees at the 7th and pushed a nine-iron right of the bunker at the 16th. He claimed they were the only bad shots in a round played during the afternoon when the wind came up. His reward finally came when he chipped in at the 16th. Then he holed from 12 feet and eight feet at the 17th and 18th respectively to finish with three birdies.

Colin Montgomerie, who scored 68, has not won this season. He has earned £274,727 but he cares little about the money. The Scot wants to win and his confidence was shaken when he failed to do so last Sunday in Switzerland, when he was five shots ahead with one round to play.

He laid the foundation to launch another challenge by gathering four birdies in his last ten holes.

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Honda plans to pull out of Formula One

FROM NORMAN HOWELL IN MONZA

TWO Formula One puzzles will be resolved this weekend. Honda will announce that it will be withdrawing from its relationship with the McLaren team and grand prix motor racing, and Nigel Mansell will announce tomorrow afternoon what next year holds for him.

This morning Honda will announce that after 28 years in Formula One, it will no longer race and support teams such as McLaren and Williams. The main motivation for its departure is likely to be found in the worldwide recession and tough emission controls demanded by American legislators, which are expensive to achieve.

In New York yesterday, where Ron Dennis, the owner of McLaren, welcomed Michael Andretti to his team for next year, nothing was said on the engine matter. But Dennis

must soon find something, or tread water for another year.

It is the recession which is keeping Mansell, the world champion, from reaching an agreement with Williams. Mansell announced here yesterday that he would be making a decision on whether to race in the next 48 hours.

Mansell dismissed suggestions that he is poised to join the Haas-Newman IndyCar team in America as replacement for Andretti, and said that he was determined to stay with Williams next season if possible.

"If the opportunity exists for me to defend the championship in the manner and conditions in which I have won it, then that is my first choice for next year," he said.

Mansell said he had not received an offer to consider at the moment, but was expecting one before tomorrow.

THE Paralympic Games authorities were again trying to justify their position as top-class sports administrators yesterday after two medal-winners were told that, while they may keep their medals, they are no longer allowed to compete in Barcelona after falling foul of the rules of competition.

David Plowright, from Barstley, who won the javelin bronze in the THW7 class — the category for the least disabled wheelchair athletes — had only been allowed to take part after submitting a protest when the classifiers originally ruled he was ineligible to compete in a wheelchair. Later, having watched him in competition, they reversed their decision, a move upheld by the International Coordinating Committee (ICC).

The official classification for THW7 maintains that the athlete must have significant abnormality in one leg, which

would lead to significant instability if throwing from a standing position. It seems the classifiers do not believe this to be the case with Plowright.

Plowright argues that, after an accident which affected his legs, back and hips, he is in great pain if he stands up. He will, though, be allowed to keep his medal because the medical committee felt there was no "deliberate attempt to beat the system". However, he has been asked to withdraw from further competition, and will not be allowed to compete from a wheelchair in future international events.

"In light of the way he performs from a chair, his disability is not felt sufficient to warrant his inclusion in the wheelchair category, and the classification committee found it difficult to measure the precise level of his ability," Michael Riding, the chairman of the medical and science committee, said.

Riding also announced yesterday that Leon Labuschagne, from South Africa, would be allowed to keep his gold medal in the THW4 discus, despite testing positive for three banned substances.

His urine sample showed traces of tenormin, a beta-blocker, and moduretic, a combination of two diuretic drugs, amiloride and hydrochlorothiazide. Labuschagne has admitted taking the drugs, but claimed they were for medical purposes only, to control hypertension.

Labuschagne had been tested in South Africa by the Orange Free State university laboratory, but was found to be free of steroids and stimulants. "They did not advise him that his medications were banned," Riding said. "We consider it unfair to punish the blatant incompetence of the South African Federation by punishing the innocent athlete."

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